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VOICES AND PROFILES OF ROMANIAN DIPLOMACY IN ITALY

HIS MAJESTY'S ENVOYS
IN THE ETERNAL CITY (1909-1947)

Edited by

EMANUELA **COSTANTINI**
RUDOLF **DINU**
ADRIAN **VIȚALARU**





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CONTENTS

- 9 Foreword
by Emanuela Costantini
- 13 Romanian Representatives in Italy in the last years of the
Belle Époque: the missions of Nanu and Diamandi (1909-
1913)
by Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu
- 47 The Nonchalant Diplomat: the mission of Prince Dimitrie
I.Gr. Ghica in Rome and the Italian-Romanian relations in
the last years of the Old Kingdom (1913-1917)
by Rudolf Dinu
- 103 Alexandru Em. Lahovari, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary to Rome. Diplomatic activity in support of the
recognition of the Great Union
by Nina Gavril
- 119 Alexandru Em. Lahovari and the Romanian – Soviet dispute
over Bessarabia in Italian interwar newspapers
by Vasile Ungureanu
- 139 Once Again in Rome. Dimitrie I. Gr. Ghica:
Plenipotentiary Minister in Italy (1928-1931, 1932-1933)
by Adrian Vițalaru, Bogdan-Alexandru Schipor
- 163 Ion Lugoșianu, Romania's Minister in Rome, 1933-1937.
Data on a diplomatic mission
by Bogdan-Alexandru Schipor

- 181 At the Peak of His Career: Alexandru Duiliu Zamfirescu –
Minister Plenipotentiary of Romania in Italy (April 1938
– September 1939)
by Adrian Vițalaru
- 197 Mirrors of Diplomacy: the activity of Raoul Bossy in Italy,
1939-1940
by Cristina Preutu
- 225 An atypical chief of Legation. Ion Victor Vojen in Rome
(October 1940 – March 1941)
by Adrian Vițalaru, Ionuț Nistor
- 243 Vasile Grigorcea – Minister in Italy.
Perspectives on the New Romanian Political Map in 1941
by Ionuț Nistor
- 261 Snapshots of Mihai Cămărășescu’s activity in Italy and at the
Romanian legation in Rome (1941-1947)
by Dan-Alexandru Săvoaia
- 275 Index of names

FOREWORD

*Emanuela Costantini**

The present volume gathers contributions from scholars who have been collaborating with each other for a long time. The starting point for this work was a conference held at the Academy of Romania in Rome on 19 October 2018 entitled *Voices and Profiles of Romanian Diplomacy in Italy (XIX-XX): A Day of Historical Studies*.

In the dynamic panorama of the history of international relations in Romania, this work fits into the field of studies on bilateral relations carried out by high-level experts, some of whom have contributed to this publication. The idea behind the project is to present a systematic study of a historical period, thus providing scholars with a very useful reference work. This is precisely one of the greatest values of the work: it is a collection in which the authors follow a unified line, thus making it possible, on the one hand, to place historical figures that have already been sufficiently researched and, on the other hand, to fill research gaps on other, lesser-known people. Most importantly, it allows us to look at the relations between two countries from the perspective of diplomatic history by examining a crucial historical period for both countries. The period of study extends from 1909 to 1947 and thus covers the following historical events: the aftermath of the 1908 crisis, the two Balkan wars, the First World War, the rise and consolidation of fascism and the crisis of the Romanian parliamentary regime, and the Second World War.

The interest in the relations between Romania and Italy cannot be reduced, as none of the authors do, to a cultural affinity. At the beginning of the period under study, Italy and Romania presented themselves as two countries linked by obvious similarities that go far beyond their common Latin roots. As Rudolf Dinu recalls in his essay, they were two partners in the Triple Alliance, albeit with a different status

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within the agreement: Italy as an equal partner of Germany and Austria-Hungary, and Romania as an external ally that had already signed a treaty with Vienna in 1883 and then in 1888, which Germany and Italy later joined. Despite their ties to Austria, both countries considered part of the territories controlled by the Habsburgs to be associated with them. Italy had irredentist lands in Trentino and on the eastern border, Romania in Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina. During the conflict, the two countries initially behaved neutrally and later emerged victorious despite all the difficulties. Both countries went through a complex interwar period. Although during this period the differences outweighed the similarities, the links between the cultural and political landscape of Romania and Italy remained active. The tragic, common outcome of the Second World War reunited them in a difficult transition that led to the end of the monarchy and the merger into two opposing blocs.

In the early stages, affinities were certainly greater. With the rise of fascism, however, they seemed to part ways. Relations were not completely severed, but the hypothesis of a far-reaching collaboration, toward which some steps had previously been taken, certainly weakened.

The starting point of the reflections in the essays of this volume therefore moves away from the traditional interpretation of a special bond between Italy and Romania and takes up the analysis already presented in previous works and taken up again here by Rudolf Dinu. Italy was not considered by Romania as an essential reference point for its policy: it was not a great power, not a neighbour, could not provide adequate protection, and had no direct interests in the region. If anything, it was a convergence of interests that led the two states to cooperate at certain historical moments.

During the period when Constantin G. Nanu was plenipotentiary in Rome between 1909 and 1911, as Adrian Bogdan Ceobanu shows in his essay, there was an intensification of trade relations and an agreement in the Balkan policy, after the Bosnian crisis and while the Macedonian question was on the verge of degeneration. With Tommaso Tittoni and then Antonino di Sangiuliano as ministers of Foreign Affairs, Italy chose to represent Romanian interests in the Balkans, showing that it wanted to participate in the dynamics of the region and that Italy considered Romania a useful reference point.

Ceobanu also shows us that during the stay of Constantin Diamandi (Nanu's successor) in Rome, it became clear that the harmony between diplomacy and political power could facilitate or hinder the diplomat's

actions. Diamandi was close to the liberals and did not share Maiorescu's politics. However, he also encountered obstacles with Sangiuliano, who did not consider it possible to have direct relations with Romania during the delicate period of 1911-1913, because he considered Germany as Bucharest's natural point of reference. It is a fact that the Romanian press had criticised the Libyan War for a long time and that the political circles had also remained in rather cold relations during this period. But even during the First Balkan War, Italian support for the Romanian demand to revise the borders with Bulgaria did not seem to be decisive, and in the next phase, when Dimitrie I.Gr. Ghica took over from Diamandi, the distance increased.

Even after the First World War and the rise to power of fascism, the dynamics of relations between the two states depended more on the convergence of interests than on a comprehensive strategy of foreign policy and diplomatic actions. Fascist Italy was always guided by its interest in being the linchpin of the European balance. In this political framework, Romania could be of use only occasionally. As the difficulties in ratifying the treaty on the unification of Bessarabia or the later relations with the Little Entente showed, other powers (especially the Soviet Union and Hungary) were considered more important. Thus, even enterprising diplomats such as Ion Lugoşianu, reported by Bogdan Schipor, were unimaginative, and others such as Alexandru Duiliu Zamfirescu (in Vişalaru's essay) tried to 'hunt down' Ciano and other figures close to the fascist regime in order to prevent Romania's complete marginalisation in foreign policy, albeit with little success.

During the Second World War, both countries fought in all phases, although for different reasons. However, it was not possible to coordinate the decisions in each phase, mainly due to the explicit decision of the fascists to follow Germany and maintain the pro-fascist policy followed between the two world wars. This can be seen very well in the case of Raoul Bossy, presented by Cristina Preutu in this volume. All attempts by Romanian plenipotentiaries to emancipate themselves from their own governments failed, even if they were enterprising and succeeded.

In a context where neither country had a special interest in the other and neither was powerful enough to be recognised as a reference partner in the alliance system or in the area in question, the role of diplomatic envoys was strongly influenced by contingent elements. One of these elements concerned the answer to the question of whether or not they

were attuned to political power. Diamandi and Ghica found it difficult to have governments in Bucharest that were far from their vision. Although neutrality brought great potential for the maturation of relations between Romania and Italy in the first phase of the conflict, and Italian plenipotentiary Carlo Fasciotti was very active, Romanian Prime Minister Brătianu deliberately excluded Ghica from the decisions to be taken vis-à-vis the Italian government.

The dynamism and personality of the protagonists also played a major role. The activism of Alexandru Em. Lahovari, studied by Nina Gavril and Vasile Ungureanu, was important for the ratification of the treaty with Bessarabia. During his first term, Ghica confined himself to the usual and showed no initiative, despite the fact that this was a particularly complex and potentially decisive historical moment for Romania's destiny. Nor was he imaginative during his second term in Rome (see Adrian Vițalaru's essay).

There were those, like Ion Lugoșianu and Duiliu Zamfirescu (see the essays by Bogdan Schipor and Adrian Vițalaru) who were able to perform a liaison and communication function in a difficult context under similar conditions. In some cases, diplomats used their spirit of initiative to try to overcome the resistance of local governments, with mixed results. Duiliu Zamfirescu had to see his mission in Italy abruptly terminated due to an action gone wrong, and Mihai Cămărășescu, as Dan Alexandru Săvoaia explains, had to operate in a very difficult environment.

In the case of Victor Ion Vojen and Vasile Grigorcea, on the other hand, even the spirit of the initiative was able to overcome the decisions of a policy focused on compartmentalization. As Ionuț Nistor aptly notes in his essay on Grigorcea, the dissenting opinions of Grigorcea and Raoul Bossy to Ion Antonescu's official discourse show how fragile the government's control over the diplomatic corps really was: could Antonescu simply dismiss Vasile Grigorcea and Raoul Bossy? Highly unlikely, since in the context of the war Romania needed professionals that the new regime could not train in such a short time.

One could almost say that when politics was in trouble, the presence of experienced diplomats could compensate for it, but the only person responsible for the country's good and bad fortunes remained politics.

ROMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN ITALY
IN THE LAST YEARS OF THE *BELLE ÉPOQUE*:
THE MISSIONS OF NANU AND DIAMANDI (1909-1913)

*Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu**

Introduction

More than two decades ago, Professor Ion Bulei, known to the historians of the two historiographic countries, published a paper in a volume printed in Iași, which concerned the evolution of the Romanian-Italian relations in the years 1909-1910. Ion Bulei argued – based on research in the Italian archives – that during the aforementioned years, there was even «an informal, but genuine bilateral alliance»¹ between the two States. He focused on the policy led by the liberal Prime-Minister and *ad-interim* Foreign Affairs Minister, Ion I.C. (Ionel) Brătianu, with direct implications on the bilateral relations and indirect in the relations with Austria-Hungary and Russia, and on his close relationship with the Italian Minister in Bucharest, Beccaria Incisa. Not one word, however, on the Romanian Minister in Rome and on his activity. Maybe it is normal, on one hand. We were in the first decade of the 20th century, a period when Romania's foreign policy was still conducted from the centre, thus excluding most of the times the Ministers abroad. Ten years ago, the historian Rudolf Dinu, based on a much more documented analysis, concluded that in the aforementioned period the Italian-Romanian alliance had not suffered any modifications. In his opinion, Ionel Brătianu did not see Italy as a great power, like Germany or France. The historian Rudolf Dinu had a critical opinion regarding previous

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¹ Ion BULEI, *O alianță în mijlocul unei alianțe. Un studiu de caz: Italia-România, 1909-1910*, in vol. *Concepte și metodologii în studiul relațiilor internaționale*, ed. Mihai Timofte, Iași, Editura Ankarom, 1997, p. 113.

studies that highlighted an unprecedented intimacy in the bilateral relations².

This study proposes a change in perspective: an evolution of the Italian-Romanian relations between 1909-1913 through the activities and reports of Constantin G. Nanu and Constantin Diamandi, the Romanian Ministers in Italy. This aspect has been studied less in the Romanian historiography. Other diplomats accredited in Rome – such as Alexandru Em. Lahovari³ or Nicolae Fleva⁴ – have benefitted from research studies in the recent years. Constantin G. Nanu has not been included. Most historians have focused on the activity of his son, Frederic C. Nanu, a career diplomat and the Romanian Minister in Stockholm during the Second World War. Their references to the activity conducted by his father, Constantin G. Nanu, are scarce though, and the attempt to draw up a brief biography has been equally difficult and exciting. On the other hand, the bilateral relations between Romania and Italy during the Balkan wars have been analysed from the Italian perspective and the activity of the Italian Minister in Bucharest, Carlo Fasciotti⁵, and less from the perspective of Constantin Diamandi (former minister plenipotentiary in Rome in the period 1911-1913). In the following lines, I will outline their biographies and career, their professional paths, their nominations to the “Eternal City” and maybe most importantly, the extent to which they managed to contribute or not to a change in the opinion of Bucharest leaders concerning the policy of the Italian government.

² Rudolf DINU, *L' Italia e l' Oriente europeo: iniziative politiche entro e fuori la Triplice alleanza. Le relazioni con la Romania (1908-1911)*, in vol. *Balcani 1908. Alle origini di un secolo di conflitti*, Alberto Basciani, Antonio D'Allessandri (eds.), Trieste, Beit Studi, 2008, pp. 71-72.

³ Alexandru Em. Lahovari. *Note, amintiri, corespondență diplomatică oficială și personală (1877-1914): Paris, Petersburg, București, Roma*, Rudolf Dinu, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu (eds.), Iași, Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2013.

⁴ Rudolf DINU, *Elita diplomatică a Vechiului Regat în corespondența privată. Nicolae Fleva și legația României la Roma (1901-1909)*, in ID., *Diplomația Vechiului Regat 1878-1914. Studii*, București, Monitorul Oficial, Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2014, pp. 315-345.

⁵ See Emanuela COSTANTINI, *Italy's View of Her Latin Sister. Carlo Fasciotti between the Balkan Wars and the First World War*, in vol. *Through the Diplomats' Eyes: Romanian Social Life in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century*, Claudiu-Lucian Topor, Daniel Cain, Alexandru Istrate (eds.), Kaiserslautern und Mehlingen, Parthenon Verlag, 2016, pp. 57-71; Rudolf DINU, *Plenipotentiari italieni la București (1879-1914). Note biografice și personale*, in vol. *Diplomați, societate și mondenități. Sfârșit de “Belle Époque” în lumea românească*, Claudiu-Lucian Topor, Alexandru Istrate, Daniel Cain (eds.), Iași, Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2015, pp. 365-423.

General aspects

As mentioned in the historiography of the matter, Romania had concluded an alliance treaty with Austria-Hungary on October 18/30, 1883, to which Germany had adhered on the same day, while Italy five years later. Many of the Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs were not familiar with the existence or the provisions of the agreement concluded in 1883 by King Charles, D.A. Sturdza, Ion C. Brătianu and P.P. Carp. Of course, that was not the case for Ionel Brătianu, who became the Prime Minister of Romania in 1909 and who had been Minister of Foreign Affairs in the interval 1902-1904. In the early 20th century, the making decision factors in Bucharest even proposed the transformation of the Triple Alliance into a Quadruple one, but the attempt failed⁶. Externally, the crisis provoked by the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina changed the dynamics of the relations in general and in Southeastern Europe, in particular. Italy concluded with Russia on October 24, 1909 the agreement of Racconigi, through which the two States vowed to preserve the territorial *status-quo* in the Balkan Peninsula. The government of Vienna responded by promising not to make new annexations in the Balkans without the consent of the Italian partner⁷. On the other hand, the position of the States in the area concerning the Great Powers also changed: after 1908-1909, even Romania's policy become pro-Serbian, anti-Bulgarian, and thus anti-Austrian implicitly⁸. Internally, in late 1908, D.A. Sturdza retired from the political life and Ionel Brătianu, who became Prime Minister and *ad-interim* Minister of Foreign Affairs in December, the same year, replaced him. His nomination led to some changes in Romania's diplomatic corps, including the appointing of Constantin Nanu in Rome, in June 1909.

⁶ Rudolf DINU, *King Charles I and decision-making process in the Romanian foreign policy before the First World War*, in ID., *Studi italo-romeni. Diplomazia e societă, 1879-1914*, seconda edizione, București, Editura Militară, 2009, pp. 188-210.

⁷ For more details see: Christopher CLARK, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe went to war in 1914*, London, Allen Lane, 2012.

⁸ Rudolf DINU, *Diplomația Vechiului Regat, 1878-1914: management, obiective, evoluție*, in ID., *Diplomația Vechiului Regat 1878-1914. Studii*, cit., p. 91.

*Constantin G. Nanu: biographic sequences*⁹

Constantin G. Nanu was born on April 29, 1859, as the son of Gheorghe (Iorgu) Nanu, a landowner at Silișteea, near Neamț, and of Maria Culiianu. He had two brothers: Iorgu and Neculai, the last one born in 1857, who became a lawyer in Iași, the son-in-law of Veronica Micle and the father of Graziella Nanu, wife of Vasile Grigorcea, a diplomat in the interwar period. His sister, Adela, was married to Valentin Ursianu, a Professor at the Faculty of Law, within the University of Bucharest. As many young people at the time, Constantin Nanu chose to go abroad for his studies, to Paris, where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Law in 1880. One year later, on December 15, 1881, Constantin became part of the Romanian diplomatic corps, being appointed supernumerary attaché. From that moment on, he began a long activity in Romanian diplomacy, which he ended in 1928. At the beginning of his career, he held various diplomatic functions: 2nd class secretary of legation in Constantinople and Paris, 1st class secretary in Brussels and again in the "City of Lights". In the Belgian capital, he met Clara Verbeeck, the daughter of a Belgian banker, whom he married. Several years later, in 1894, their son Frederic was born. He went on to become a Law graduate in the French capital. The Nanu family had two more children: Roger and Andrei.

Until he was sent as minister plenipotentiary of Romania to the Greek capital on April 1st, 1900, Constantin G. Nanu was also 1st class secretary of legation in Brussels, Constantinople and Saint Petersburg. In Athens, he had his first experience as Chief of the Mission, where he activated as such until May 1st, 1901. After one year spent in the Greek capital, in May 1901, Nanu was appointed for the first time Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, being replaced in Athens by his very predecessor, Dimitrie I. Ghica.

Nanu is among the diplomats who were General Secretaries in the central administration, in two different terms, along with Alexandru Em. Lahovari, Dumitru C. Ollănescu, Alexandru Beldiman. His appointment in 1901 in Bucharest occurred during the mandate of Dimitrie A. Sturdza, as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He managed to hold the function

⁹ Adrian-Bogdan CEOPANU, *Secretarii generali ai Ministerului Afacerilor Străine (1878-1918). Studii și documente*, Iași, Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2019, pp. 174-190.

for quite a while, around four years, until April 1905. He collaborated with two other heads of the Romanian diplomacy: Ion I.C. Brătianu and Iacob Lahovari; thus, under two different governments – liberal and conservative. In April 1905, he was sent as the Romanian Minister to Belgrade¹⁰, but he only remained in this position until 1906, when he was transferred to Galați, where he activated within the European Danube Commission. After three years spent in the country, Nanu was transferred to Rome in May 1909. His appointment was due to Ionel Brătianu, even though at the end of 1908, following a discussion between D.A. Sturdza and King Charles, Duiliu Zamfirescu was to be appointed in the “Eternal City”¹¹. Thus, possibly a better relationship with the liberals.

CONSTANTIN G. NANU

Date and place of birth: April 29, 1859, Grumăzești (Neamț).

Parents: Maria (born Culiănu) and Gheorghe Nanu.

Studies: degree in Law, Faculty of Law, Paris.

Married, November 17, 1891, to Claire-Marie-Florence-Melanie Verbeke. They had five children: Simona, Frederic, Roger, Luciana and Andrei.

Date of joining the Ministry and positions held:

-By Royal Decree No. 2950, of December 15, 1881, he was appointed attaché to the Romanian Legation in Paris;

-By Royal Decree No. 1860, of June 15, 1884, he was appointed 2nd Class Secretary of Legation in Athens.

-By Royal Decree No. 1396, of April 27, 1885, he was transferred in the same capacity to the Paris Legation.

-By Royal Decree of March 16, 1889, he was appointed general consul to Constantinople, however, he never arrived.

-By Royal Decree No. 3257, of April 24, 1889, he was appointed 1st Class secretary of legation within the Brussels Legation.

-By Royal Decree No. 466, of February 14, 1891, he was transferred in the same capacity to the Paris Legation.

-By Royal Decree No. 2919, of September 1, 1894, he was promoted to the rank of counselor of legation.

-By Royal Decree No. 2086, of April 25, 1895, he was transferred in the same capacity within the Romanian Legation in Belgium and the Netherlands, residing in The Hague.

-By Royal Decree No. 3764, of October 30, 1895, he was transferred to the Paris Legation.

-By Royal Decree No. 2538, of May 9, 1896, he was transferred to the Constantinople Legation.

¹⁰ ID., *From Victoria Boulevard to Brancova Ulita. A Romanian Diplomat in Belgrade: Constantin G. Nanu (1905-1906)*, in «Revue Roumaine d'histoire», Tome LVIII, Nos 1-4, Janvier-Décembre 2019, pp. 3-12.

¹¹ Duiliu ZAMFIRESCU, *Opere*, vol. VII, *Corespondență A-M*, Al. Săndulescu (ed.), București, Editura Minerva, 1984, p. 483.

-By Royal Decree No. 705, of February 27, 1897, he was transferred in the same capacity to Brussels Legation.

-By Royal Decree No. 1967, of April 1, 1900, he was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Athens, with the rank of 2nd class minister plenipotentiary.

-By Royal Decree No. 1847, of April 26, 1901, he was appointed, starting with May 16, Secretary-General of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

-By Royal Decree No. 1767, of March 29, 1905, he was appointed, starting with April 1, 1905, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Serbia.

-By Decree No. 2909, of July 25, 1906, he was appointed, starting with August 1, delegate of Romania in the European Commission of the Danube and in the Joint Commission of the Prut, keeping the title and seniority in the current degree.

-By Royal Decree No. 1735, of May 16, 1909, he was promoted as 1st Class minister plenipotentiary and appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Italy.

-By Royal Decree No. 3176, of October 7, 1911, he was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Russia.

-By Royal Decree No. 5578, of September 11, 1913, he was recalled from the post of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Petersburg and appointed Secretary-General of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, starting with October 1, 1913.

-By Royal Decree No. 3854, of September 22, 1920, he was appointed, starting with October 1, 1920, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary within the German Government.

-By Royal Decree No. 1380, of May 3, 1929, he was put in the "position of ex officio withdrawal" for age limit.

Representative works: –

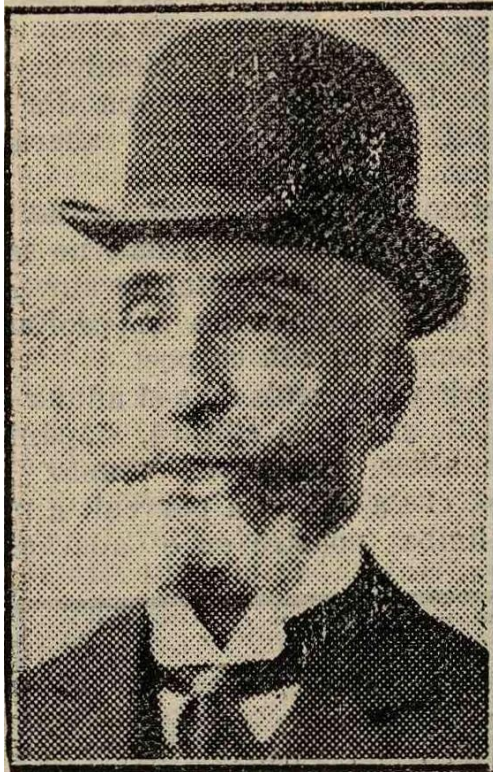
Deceased in 1948, Bucharest.

Source: Arhivele Ministerului Afacerilor Externe [Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter AMAE], fund *Problema* 77, N 12; Adrian-Bogdan CIOBANU, *Secretarii generali ai Ministerului Afacerilor Străine*, cit., pp. 119-121.

Constantin G. Nanu: Romanian Minister in Italy (1909-1911)

In 1909, when he was named minister plenipotentiary of Romania in Italy, Constantin G. Nanu was the 11th head of mission. His predecessors were: Nicolae Kretzulescu (1880-1881), Petre P. Mavrogheni (1881-1882), Ion Bălăceanu (1882-1884), Theodor C. Văcărescu (January-September 1885), Alexandru Plagino (1885-1891), Ion Văcărescu (March-October 1891), Constantin Esarcu (1891-1893), Alexandru Em. Lahovari (1893-1898), Alexandru C. Catargi (1899-1900), Nicolae Fleva (1900-1908). Overall, between 1880 and 1913, there have been 13 heads of mission, which is quite a lot if we compare it to the situation from the other European capitals: three heads of mission in Berlin, eight in Petersburg and Vienna, 11 in Constantinople and Belgrade.

On June 18 /July 3, 1909, Constantin Nanu presented his accreditation letters to the Italian King. Victor Emanuel III was dressed in his general attire, he had the Charles I Order and he received the Romanian diplomat «in a simple and cordial manner». The Italian sovereign did



Constantin G. Nanu ("Universul literar", 21 November 1911)

not let him finish the usual speech. He interrupted him and, after several protocol-related aspects, he discussed with Nanu about Romania's royal family, the situation of the Ottoman Empire in general and of the Romanians in Macedonia, in particular, but also about Crete. The King had gone to Macedonia several times and he knew quite well the situation there. The Romanian diplomat mentioned that both Italy and Romania had all the interest for these populations in the Ottoman Empire to develop naturally, aware of their nationality, like other nationalities within the Empire. After the discussion with the Italian King, Nanu also talked to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tommaso Titoni. His interlocutor believed that commercial relations represented an important point in the bilateral relations. The Italian official wanted to have an iron path from the Danube to the Adriatic Sea, serving the harbours

of Durazzo and Valona. Hence, the Italian commerce would have arrived sooner at the Danube mouths. After discussing with the Italian decision factors, Nanu also wanted to talk to the members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Rome. Many of them were on vacation, and therefore, he only talked to the French ambassador, Camille Barrere¹². Moreover, in Nanu's reports drafted up in the period 1909-1911, the name of the French diplomat is the most common one. It appears that the two discussed various political and diplomatic matters. Barrere knew the situation in Italy very well. In a discussion with Nanu, he would say, «As a great power, Italy is only second. But as a support power whose contribution may be decisive at one point Italy is a first-rank power»¹³. Nanu had his own opinion about the French-Italian relations: «The alliance is in the heads, but not in the hearts of Italians»¹⁴.

When he was appointed in Rome, the Romanian Legation also comprised Eugen E. Stătescu, the son of the liberal leader Eugen Stătescu, former Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1881-1882, and I.C. Filitti. Throughout Nanu's mandate, Rome also welcomed as secretaries first-class and second-class Gheorghe Stoicescu, the son of another liberal leader, and Dimitrie C. Penescu. Starting from 1906, the diplomatic mission also included Gheorghe Vlădescu as military attaché. After Nanu's arrival, the Legation moved to *via Nomentana*, no. 56. The contract was concluded in July 1909 and it entered into force on October 1, the same year. It had five-year validity; the payment of 5,000 pounds annually would be paid twice a year, on April 30 and October 30. The building belonged to the Paolis family, Renato and Bianca, and it had a basement and two stories¹⁵.

Nanu's mandate in the Italian capital coincides with a period marked by political instability internally, when several governments were in power. I will not provide further details on this matter here. The Romanian diplomat analysed, in various reports sent to Bucharest, the political life in the Peninsula. He interacted with several Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and in various moments, he tried to anticipate the implications of naming

¹² Arhiva Ministerului Afacerilor Externe [Archives of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter AMAE], fund *Problema 21/Italia*, vol. 18, years 1909-1913, Political reports from Rome, f. 42-44.

¹³ *Ibidem*, f. 92.

¹⁴ AMAE, fund *Roma*, vol. 7, unpagued.

¹⁵ AMAE, fund *Roma* vol. 122, unpagued.