

censure militaire. Ainsi, le chapitre « À ceux qui sont restés à la maison. Correspondance 1903-1919 » rassemble la correspondance reçue et envoyée du front par l'officier de Transylvanie (p. 219-241).

On peut dire que ce volume cherche à répondre à des questions sur la Première Guerre mondiale sous un autre angle, opposé à celui qui vise seulement la nature exceptionnelle des événements et des personnalités de référence. Il a essayé de reconstruire la réalité historique sous une forme différente – en récréant les événements non en se basant sur des documents officiels ou non-officiels (journaux de guerre, etc.) – mais en s'appuyant sur le format photographique. Et par cette réalisation les éditeurs ont réalisé une innovation non seulement pour l'historiographie roumaine, mais aussi au niveau international.

Les photos prises rendent la réalité objective expérimentée sur le front plus efficace que les mots, mots qui peuvent être faux à cause de l'intervention subjective de l'inconscient de l'écrivain. Ainsi, la chronique photographique de l'officier de Transylvanie, qui nous montre des moments du front, représente une nouveauté, non seulement pour ces temps-là, mais aujourd'hui aussi on peut affirmer que la nouveauté de la démarche des auteurs persiste, en publiant cette collection dans le volume, qui introduit la figure d'Albert Porkoláb dans le circuit universitaire. En plus la collection photographique peut être utilisée comme source primaire pour les chercheurs, et non seulement historiens, mais aussi pour ceux des autres domaines tels que l'anthropologie, la littérature, la sociologie, la psychologie ou même les médias.

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ROBERT-MARIUS MIHALACHE

OTTMAR TRĂȘCĂ and STELIAN OBIZIUC, eds.
Diplomați români în slujba vieții:
Constantin I. Karadja și salvarea
evreilor români din Europa în timpul
celui de-al Treilea Reich (1932-1944)/
Romanian diplomats in the service
of humanity: Constantin I. Karadja
and the salvation of Romanian Jews
in Europe during the Third Reich
(1932–1944)

Foreword by RADU IOANID, afterword by
 DENNIS DELETANT

Cluj-Napoca: Argonaut, 2017

SOOON AFTER the Law 217/2015 was approved by the Romanian Parliament, the delicate issue of anti-Semitism in interwar Romania appeared, again, into the public discourse. Knowing the truth is very important for a complete image of interwar Romania.

Several historians published very interesting volumes of documents about that period or critical papers regarding one event or another. In the first category we can include the volume edited by historians Ottmar Trașcă and Stelian Obiziuc, a wonderful collection of first hand documents about the fight for justice and, in the end, for life, during a very dark period in history.

With a foreword signed by Radu Ioanid, from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the volume tells the story of a rescuer of Romanian Jews during the Holocaust. Constantin I. Karadja (1889–1950) was a diplomat, head of the Consular Department in Berlin and Romania's general consul in Berlin from 1932 to 1941. He was also director of the Consular Department of Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 1941–1944. From these positions he could easily see the injustices done to Jews and he began to use his influence to help them. On 18 July 2005,

Constantin I. Karadja was recognized by Yad Vashem Institute from Jerusalem as *Righteous Among the Nations*, a very important distinction granted to those who had rescued Jews from extermination during the Holocaust.

This very important volume brings together 331 diplomatic documents from the reference collections kept in the archive of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most of the reports signed by Constantin I. Karadja during his time in Berlin contain information and details about specific activities of a consular section, like passports issued, visas, Romanian students studying in Germany, taxes or certificates. But, because of the rise of anti-Semitism in all Europe, and especially in Germany, Karadja's reports to the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry contain distinct details about the situation of Romanian Jews residing in Germany. He was able to offer a detailed account of the Romanian Jewish community in Berlin between 1932 and 1938. His reports show his concern regarding the fate of these people. In order to protect them from the intolerant attitude of Nazi authorities, Karadja proposed consultations with diplomatic representatives of the USA and Great Britain, so that the Romanian Jewish citizens could be protected.

Constantin I. Karadja was the first Romanian diplomat who offered to his superiors details about the measures implemented by the Nazi authorities for the deportation of Jews to labor camps. He was deeply concerned about "the situation of deported Jews" and asked for the interest of the Romanian state for its citizens, regardless of their ethnic origins. His actions did not remain unknown to German authorities, and his replacement was considered not very difficult to secure. That

happened on 12 June 1941, when he was recalled to the central administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed over the management of Romania's General Consulate in Berlin. Before that, he managed to propose a solution for the Jews who traveled, one that would save their lives: "mention on the passports of Romanian Jewish citizens of a conventional sign known by our authorities, but kept as discreet as possible, if not confidential . . . without insisting upon their race in writing." His proposal was accepted by the Leader of the State.

From 1 July 1941, Constantin I. Karadja assumed the new position of head of the Directorate for Consular Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That was a culminating moment of the relations between Romania and the Third Reich. The new position offered him the possibility—between 1942 and 1944—to be involved in saving the Romanian Jewish citizens from those territories occupied/controlled by the Reich. But the political situation was rapidly degrading and through the voice of the vice-president of the Council of Ministers, Mihai Antonescu, the Romanian Government declared that there was "no interest in the return of Romanian Jews." The Reich started to deport the Jews to concentration camps in Poland. The "final solution" was prepared.

The attitude of the Romanian political regime towards the Jewish population in Romania, and the Romanian Jews in the Reich and the states under its control, would take a decisive turn at the end of 1942 and beginning of 1943. Marshal Ion Antonescu started to review the politics on the Jewish question. During this time, reports on the persecution of Romanian Jews continued to arrive from all over Europe. Constantin I. Karadja was involved

in all the matters regarding Jewish Romanian citizens. He sent a series of reports in the second half of 1943, and throughout 1944, through which he requested the immediate intervention of Romanian authorities for the repatriation of Romanian Jews from extermination camps. His efforts made possible the salvation of thousands of Jews from certain death.

Constantin I. Karadja was not the only Romanian diplomat involved in this noble fight. As documents from this volume show, a number of other Romanian diplomats, such as Constantin Mareş, Virgil Zaborovschi, Mihail Stănescu, Alexandru Stănescu, Emil Pavelescu, Mihai Marina and many others, distinguished themselves as part of Romanian diplomacy's efforts towards rescuing the lives of Romanian Jews threatened by Nazi anti-Semitic measures.

This excellent volume of documents edited by two prolific historians, Ottmar Traşcă and Stelian Obiziuc, is very important for the recovery of the true history of interwar Romania. Besides the 331 historical documents, the volume also contains excellent explanatory notes and an extremely useful index of names and places. The afterword signed by Dennis Deletant and the list of facsimiles (including the Certificate of Honour from the Yad Vashem Jerusalem) complete this exquisite volume which will be very useful both to professors, researchers and students in history, and to the general public. All readers will be able to learn more/new facts about Constantin I. Karadja and his incredible efforts to save lives in a very dark time in history.



MIHAELA GLIGOR

PĂUN ION OTIMAN, dir.

Almăjul – de ieri, de azi și de mâine sau mult dorita vale a miracolelor

(L'Almăj d'hier, d'aujourd'hui et de demain ou la tant souhaitée vallée des miracles)

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LA RÉNOVATION du discours historiographique en Roumanie a signifié, entre autres, le développement d'un domaine qui, avant 1989, est resté en quelque sorte à la périphérie de la recherche scientifique, la micro-histoire. Elle est devenue, pendant les dernières décennies, une des tendances fertiles dans l'historiographie universelle que les historiens roumains n'ont pas pu contourner, comme en témoignent les volumes de la *Bibliographie historique de la Roumanie* parus après 1989.

La récupération du passé de l'une ou de plusieurs communautés qui forment une entité géographique ou politico-administrative distincte est une nécessité professionnelle. De pareilles monographies locales sont indispensables à l'élaboration de futures synthèses d'histoire régionale, nationale ou universelle. Une série de monographies dédiées à différents « pays » de Transylvanie ont été rédigées après 1989 sous forme de thèses de doctorat en géographie régionale à l'Université Babeş-Bolyai à Cluj-Napoca. Cette fois-ci, il s'agit d'une monographie monumentale dédiée à une entité historique-géographique du Banat : la Vallée de l'Almăj, une micro-zone qui ne diffère en rien des « pays » étudiés pendant les dernières décennies. Ce qui la distingue des autres monographies susmentionnées est cepen-