

# Unique Aspects from the Life and Activity of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu

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**T**HE GALLERY of outstanding national personalities from the Land of Toplița comprises Elie Miron Cristea, Alexandru Nicolescu, Emilian (Dumitru) Antal, Vasile Urzică, Ioan Bucur and Octavian Codru Tăslăuanu. The latter left a significant imprint upon Romanian history, distinguishing himself as a writer, publicist and politician. Despite several attempts to shed some light on his life and activity, it seems that this multidimensional cultural personality of the interwar years is currently known and remembered only by a minute group of intellectuals.

For this reason, the author of this paper, despite being a geographer by profession and not a literary historian, originating from Bilbor, believes he must do his moral duty towards his forbearer, taking up the difficult but beautiful tasks of revisiting, in these pages, a part of the life, fruitful work and activity of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, dedicated to national unity.

An unpleasant aspect, which we are unfortunately obliged to mention, is the total lack of reaction from local and county officials in regards to the memorandum submitted on 14 September 2009 by Stela Mitruță (the writer's granddaughter), and co-signed by Constantin Hârlav, a researcher at the Romanian Academy and also a Bilbor native, regarding the house of Cornel Tăslăuanu (Octavian's younger brother), arguing that it should be preserved, renovated and turned into a museum. The building was erected in 1927, in the center of the commune, and it was an architectural landmark, as one of the last remaining houses built between the two world wars. It also had a significant historical and patrimonial value, as part of the heritage of a family that gave us an important figure in the cultural pantheon of Romania: the Tăslăuanu family. Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, extremely fond of his birthplace, often came here with his wife, Fatma, and their daughter Dafina, finding moments of peace and relaxation, much necessary to the one caught in a tumultuous political and literary life. Furthermore, some of his furniture was still there, which shows it had been a family house, a regenerative space, built according to the Sovata rest house plans. The house was also witness to less pleasant events, which must however be mentioned lest they be forgotten by posterity. After the Vienna Award, the village of Bilbor was occupied by the Hungary of Miklós Horthy and Cornel Tăslăuanu was forced to accommodate the family of Hungarian engineer and architect Gyula Hermann, who coordinated the construction of 13 barracks for the guards stationed on the Hungarian-Romanian border, located close to Bilbor. On 29 August 1944, the entire

village was forcefully evacuated by Hungarian troops. This family's exile lasted for four weeks. In September 1944, the Soviet troops turned the house into a military hospital.

Despite these facts and arguments being minutely detailed in the memorandum, which could have contributed to the creation of the Museum of the Commune of Bilbor and of the Octavian C. Tăslăuanu Memorial House, the building was eventually demolished in August 2012. The house kept the vestiges of the family's past and of the past of the entire village as well. Some objects were stored in an improvised shed, many of them suffering subsequent damage, including several valuable 100 years-old books.

Despite the fact the Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's activity has been universally acknowledged and praised, several distinctions proving the esteem in which he was held by the public, he was erroneously left out of the list of those decorated with the Ferdinand I Order, in recognition of their contribution to the creation of Greater Romania. Therefore, it is imperative to remedy another regrettable omission and bestow upon him the post-mortem title of Honorary Citizen of Bilbor.

## The Tăslăuanu Family

**O**CTAVIAN'S FATHER, priest Ioan Tăslăuanu, was born on 18 June 1842, in Toplița (Maroshéviz, Töplitz), where he completed his primary education at the confessional school. He then went to secondary schools in Bistrița (Bistritz, Beszterce) and Năsăud (Nussdorf, Naszód), and then, for two years, he attended the Greek Catholic Archdiocesan Theological Seminar of Blaj (Blasendorf, Balázsfalva). He got married rather late, in 1873, to Anisia Stan, a peasant woman (1859–1933), “who was still a child” (Tăslăuanu 1976, 37), the youngest daughter of Mihai and Todora Stan from Bilbor (Belbern, Bélbör). At the same age of 31, he was ordained as priest by Ioan Vancea, the metropolitan bishop of Blaj, and appointed parochial administrator at Pănet (Mezőpanit), in the Transylvanian Plain, close to Târgu-Mureș (Marosvásárhely, Neumarkt). He worked there until 10 April 1875, when he was appointed as a cooperator in Bilbor, after the death of priest George Filipescu, and in 1877 he became the parish priest of this village, shepherding the community for half a century.

As the Kingdom of Romania entered the war in 1916 alongside the Entente, the Hungarian authorities enforced restrictive measures, such as the arrest, detainment, incarceration and removal from local Romanian communities of all opinion leaders and influencers, especially the priests, as the Budapest Interior Ministry set up a special department for Romanian deportees and internees (Bolovan 2015, 45). This was also the fate of Father Ioan Tăslăuanu and one of his sons, Cornel. They were arrested and escorted on foot over 100 km, to Reghin (Sächsisch-Regen, Szászrégen), and then to Târgu-Mureș. Evidence of this is the white marble commemorative plaque adorning one of the walls of the Mureș County Prefecture building, which reads: “Under the walls of this tower were imprisoned for their fealty to their language and beliefs the following,” and an alphabetical list of 35 detainees including “Ioan Tăslăuan” and “Cornel Tăslăuan.” Under the list of names, an inscription reads: “Some perished before their time, but some saw the day when the people were reunited as one. In their honor and as

a sign of gratitude, this plaque was inaugurated on 15 August 1936, 20 years after the War of Reunification.”

In September 1940, the plaque was vandalized under the short-lived Hungarian-Horthyst occupation, its restoration taking place only on 25 April 2003. The Greek Catholic priest Ioan Tăslăuanu passed away in his 84<sup>th</sup> year, on a Thursday, 9 December 1926, at 23.30. There is an imposing white marble commemorative cross at the Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas in Toplița, erected in the memory of several generations of Tăslăuanu priests, a family originating from the Valley of Tazlău and which settled in the lands of Toplița during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The monument bears the following text: “For the eternal memory of the shepherds of the Christian faith in these lands, the priests of the TĂSLĂUANU family—Toma, Mihăilă, Nicolae and Toader, as well as their other relatives who have passed away.” The pedestal of the monument features the following inscription: “This holy cross has been erected in Toplița by Father Ioan and his son Octavian, former councilor of His Majesty Ferdinand I, King of Reunified Romania, in the year 1924.”

We know very little about the writer’s older sister, Valeria. Besides what is presented in the first volume of the *Confessions* cycle (*My Village: Memories of Childhood and Youth*), we know that she was born in 1874, in Pănet, and was married to the Greek Catholic priest Teodor S. Russ from Săplac (Dedrád-Széplak, now Goreni village in the commune of Batoș, near Reghin), and had four children: Virgil, Octavian, Valeriu and Eugen. After the death of her husband, buried on 30 May 1911 (*Unirea* 21, 66, 1 August 1911: 583), she returned to Bilbor and married a teacher from Corbu (Holló), Nicolae Hanganu, divorcing after a couple of years. She died in 1927 and was buried in the cemetery of Bâta Bisericii, next to her younger sister, Georgeta.

After Octavian, the third child was Ileana (1878–1935), who married at the age of 27 (in the autumn of 1905) one Gavril Filip from Bilbor (Filipescu in the writings of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu and in official documents from the mayor’s office). He was an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, with the rank of lieutenant. After his discharge, he returned to Bilbor, where he was first elected mayor and then communal notary public. They had five children: Eugenia, Alexandru, Octavian, Adelina (a teacher in Bilbor), and Valeria.

The second boy, after Octavian, was Petru, also known as Petrache (1880–1957), who studied at the Normal School of Blaj, beginning his teaching career in Beica Română (Alsóbölkény, Birk), near Reghin, followed by Hârșeni, in the Land of Făgăraș, and Trestia (now Băița commune, Hunedoara County). He eventually returned to his birthplace of Bilbor, taking the position of school principal, as he had four decades of education experience, and the position of communal notary public. One can say that he was teacher and mentor to all the Bilbor people who lived in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the summer of 1912, he became a life-long member of the Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and the Culture of the Romanian People (Astra), Giurgeu Department—see *Transilvania* 43, 5 (Sept.–Oct. 1912): 331. In 1914, he married Emilia, the daughter of Father Ciril Negruțiu from Rușii-Munți (Marosoroszfalu, Russ) (1893–1989) and they had two children: a son, Tiberiu, and a daughter, Rodica. Tiberiu (Tibi or Puiu) was born on 15 August 1916, in Rușii-Munți. After graduating

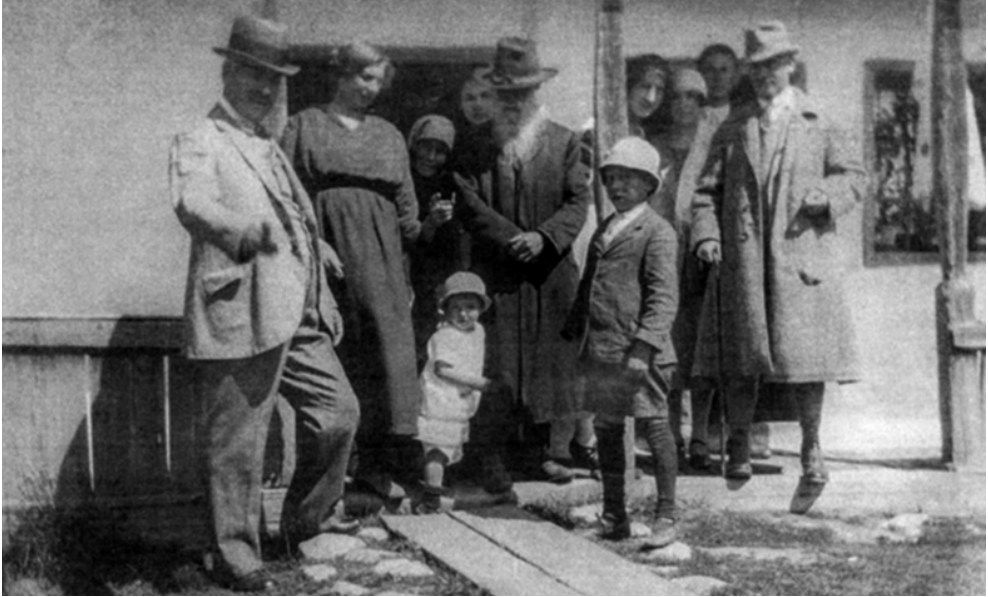


FIG. 1. The TĂSLĂUANU family. Photograph taken in front of the parochial house of Bilbor, 1923.  
From left to right: PETRU (PETRACHE), VALERIA, ANISIA, DAFINA, SILVIA, Father IOAN,  
TIBERIU, FATMA, EMILIA, EUGEN, and OCTAVIAN.

the Commercial High School of Târgu-Mureș, he enrolled in the Greek Catholic Archdiocesan Theological Seminar of Blaj, graduating in 1939.

Right after graduation, he took the temporary job of religion and music professor at a school in Dumbrăveni (Elisabethstadt, Ebesfalva), where he met his future wife. After a period of searches and uncertainty, he returned to Bilbor around 1944, when his cousin Eugen Russu (the son of his aunt Valeria), a lawyer from Bucharest, suggested a job as the administrator of a vineyard near Urlați, Prahova. Dissatisfied with the position, he returned once again to Bilbor. Not married “on time,” he renounced his priesthood and around 1948 his aunt Letiția, who had been working as a typist at the University of Timișoara, helped Tiberiu find a position as the administrator of one of the colleges of the university.

He participated in the anticommunist student revolt of 23 October 1956, for which he was arrested and savagely beaten. He died nine months later due to kidney failure, without his family ever knowing what had really happened. Following this tragic event, his aunt Letiția, alongside a young lady with whom Tiberiu desired to start a family, identified his grave in the Greek Catholic cemetery, now located in the Mehala neighborhood of Timișoara. At the end of summer 1957, Emilia’s sister, Letiția, came to Bilbor and told his parents the tragic news. For several minutes, powerful wailing cries and screams came from the house of teacher Petrache Tăslăuanu. Following the news, Petrache suffered a stroke, a condition which hastened his end several months later. The family went to Timișoara only several years later, to redo his grave. Tiberiu was known to have had a



FIG. 2. Photograph with the writer's parents and younger siblings during their deportation to Sopron, Hungary (August 1916–May 1918). From left to right: Father IOAN, CORNEL, the priest's wife ANISIA, and SILVIA.

special talent for music and sculpture, creating a beautiful wayside shrine, unfortunately lost, as well as several trays, boxes, and picture frames. Petrache and his wife, Emilia, also had a daughter, Rodica, born in 1923, who taught Romanian language and literature in Bucharest, where she died in 2010. She was cremated upon her death and interred in the Bellu Catholic Cemetery, alongside her husband, Cornel Reteșan.

About the other brother, Pavel, we only know that he died in infancy, accidentally stabbing himself with a knife. We also have very little information about Victoria Paraschiva-Agripina (1884–1968), who graduated from primary school at a religious institution in Bilbor and completed only two secondary classes in Bistrița, after which she returned home. She married teacher and school principal Maxim Domide from Rodna Nouă, now Șanț, Bistrița-Năsăud County and had three children: Flaviu, Silvia-Octavia and Virginia. The Domide family were ethnic refugees until 1950, in Luduș, selling their house and moving to Cluj, to live with their daughter Virginia. Here, the grandparents took great care of their two granddaughters: Liana and Doina Dana.

Georgeta was born in 1887 and the family called her Getta. She graduated from the Housekeeping School for Girls in Sibiu and was very close to her brother Octavian, when he was living in Sibiu. This connection was immortalized in a beautiful postcard: "To my dear Getta, who brightened the days of my widowhood. Sibiu, March 1911." She was a member in an amateur folk dance group and participated in the celebrations organized by the Association in Sibiu (5 May 1911). After a cold turned into an aggressive pneumonia, she passed away at the young age of 26 (14 November 1913).

The next to be born was Cornel Anton, the 8<sup>th</sup> child (1889–1974), who attended the primary school in Ditrău and the secondary school in Gheorgheni (both in Hungarian). At the age of 16, he was taken by his older brother Octavian to Sibiu, thus beginning his apprenticeship at the W. Krafft Publishing House. He made several educational visits to Budapest, Berlin and Vienna. Between August 1916 and May 1918, alongside his parents and sister Silvia, he was deported to Hungary, in Sopron, commuting frequently to Vienna, where he was working as a typesetter.

After returning home, he worked at the Foresta Enterprise in Făgăraș, and in 1927, immediately following his father's death, he made his way back to Bilbor to build a house for his mother, Anisia, as she had to leave the parochial house. It is worth mentioning that the most important representative of the Tăslăuanu family, Octavian, after discovering that the new priest had built a new house, offered to buy the old parochial house. He failed in his endeavor however, since the parochial committee decided against it. Therefore, Anisia Tăslăuanu had to spend the last seven years of her widowhood alongside Cornel, then with her daughter Ileana, and then at Petrache's, where she died on 6 April 1933.

In 1931, Cornel started his family by marrying Varvara, the daughter of yeoman Dumitru Pața from Neagra Șarului, who gave him five children: Stela, born on 7 September 1932, currently living in Ploiești; Sextil, killed at the age of 11 (12 September 1944) in a grenade explosion; Marcel (1937–1938), died from a rapid onset of pulmonary congestion; then Maricel (1939–2007), electrician at the Leșu Ursului mine, and Hortensia, currently in her 80s (in 2020), married in Neagra Șarului. Three years later (1934), Cornel Tăslăuanu became the mayor of Bilbor, building a new church, the town hall, a communal stable, the cultural center and the primary school in the village. At his bequest, Cornel was buried next to his parents, close to the historical St. Nicholas' Church of Bilbor.

Likewise, there is little information on Ioan, who died in infancy, on Aurel, who lived for only three years, and on the youngest daughter, Elena Silvia (d. 1947, Brașov), married to attorney Ioan Negrea, Ph.D., from Miercurea-Ciuc, who had two children: Lucia, an engineer at Timișoara Railways, and Mircea, a secretary at Periș Town Hall. There is an unusual piece of information about Silvia in *Transylvania* magazine 41, 6 (Nov.–Dec. 1910): 466, as she made a small contribution to the Association Museum, a brass Kreuzer coin (1/100 of a florin).

## Octavian C. Tăslăuanu:

**Diplomat at the General Consulate of Romania in Budapest (1902–1906)  
and Owner-Editor of *Luceafărul* magazine, the Budapest Years (1903–1906)**

**A**FTER GRADUATING the College of Philosophy and Letters in Bucharest, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu worked as a secretary at the General Consulate of Romania in Budapest between 1902 and 1906. He made contact with a group of students organized as the Petru Maior Academic Society, who were editing a literary journal named *Luceafărul* (The Evening Star), and was offered the position of associate member (Tofan and Niță 2018, 62).

On 28 March 1903, he became editor of the magazine, succeeding Aurel P. Bănuțiu, and re-located the offices to his house at 11–13 Zöldfa Street, while the administration remained at the Printing House of the Romanian People at 60A Vörösmarty Street. However, he did not put his own name on the cover, not sure if he could continue printing it. He was aided in his work by Octavian Goga, as he strove to cover the magazine's expenses. In number 7 of 1 April 1903, he announced his intention to move the entire administration to his house, printing the magazine at the Franklin Printing House for a short while (Tăslăuanu 1939, 14), when the publication maintained its status as a youth magazine (*ibid.*, 31).

On 1 January 1904, “the building year,” he published number 1 of the magazine (48 pages), on special paper, with a color cover, in which he was listed as editor in chief (numbers 1–4; beginning with number 5 his name was replaced by the tag “Property and edition of the editorial office”), supervised by Alexandru Ciura and Octavian Goga.

“The year of triumph” (1905) started with the changing of the editorial office's titles, which “no longer had any purpose” in the old format (Tăslăuanu 1939, 121), the cover page of the *Luceafărul* magazine stating: “Published under the direction of: Alexandru Ciura, Octavian Goga, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu,” while the last page, for the entirety of 1905, featured the name of Mihai Stan as editor in chief (a fictional name, actually the name of his long deceased maternal grandfather from Bilbor), since the Romanian Consulate had received complaints regarding Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's involvement in the political struggle in Transylvania. The objective of national unity was pursued not only through his writing, but also through his editorial work, as he established his own printing house—Luceafărul Institute for Graphical Arts and Printing (news featured on the front page of *Luceafărul*, no. 12, 15 June 1905). This required a new relocation of the editorial board and administration to 10 Molnár Street (1906), when he again put his name on the magazine, as editor, convinced that he would resign from his consular position. In August 1905 he participated in the celebrations for the inauguration of the Association Museum of Sibiu, where he met some of the magazine's associates, as well as the beautiful writer Adelina Olteanu-Maior, whom he admired, as indicated by at least two rueful letters sent by Octavian C. Tăslăuanu to Goga. One of them, dated February 1905, ends as follows:

*Our Adelina, I beg your pardon!, still ours, behaves admirably. I am telling you that this girl got me thinking. So much interest, so much zeal, too much to remain unrewarded. I*



FIG. 3. OCTAVIAN C. TĂSLĂUANU  
at the age of 26



FIG. 4. ADELINA TĂSLĂUANU (1877–1910)  
Photo by EMIL FISCHER

*am struggling to come up with a gift for her. What do you think? In my letters of gratitude, I might have slipped and flirted a bit with the girl. Forgive me, my friend, for invading your territory, but I am still a man and, however harsh I may appear, a good deed softens me, it even makes me lose my mind. Glad that I do not know her, whether she be dark, or blonde, but not to be said at a bad time, if my eyes . . . (Goga 1983, 431)*

Despite the fact that Adelina was older than Goga by roughly four years, he fell for her and even wanted to marry her, but the woman he loved admired him solely as a poet. Knowing this, Tăslăuanu asked Goga, in writing, to be honest with Adelina: “She had a true love for the treasure within you, for poetry. In your mind, you built something else on this love. You have asked her to love the singer as well,” continuing: “Sooner or later you will heal the wounds of shattered ambition, you will forget everything, and when the time comes, you will become attached to a frail flower, who will understand you and love you completely” (Goga 1975, 330–331).

As expected, it happened exactly accordingly, but Adelina Olteanu-Maior would eventually become the wife of the abovementioned councilor on 17 June 1906 (Nastasă 2010, 63). Their engagement took place at the beginning of 1906, in Vienna, among the Argetoianu family, while the wedding ceremony was held at Breasta, near Craiova, on the family’s estate. From the Tăslăuanu family, only Octavian’s brother, the teacher Petrache, was present.

Adelina was born in 1877, the daughter of professor Constantin Olteanu-Maior, from Reghin, grandson of one of the most important representatives of the Transylvanian School, Petru Maior. She worked as a teacher at the Elena Doamna Home in Bucharest until 1903, when she returned to Sibiu to take care of the six children of her sister Silvia (married name Barcian), orphaned of both parents. God gifted her with remarkable physical qualities, as well as intellectual brilliance. Her literary skills focused on a field that had been neglected until then—literature for children and young people.

It is not surprising that she collaborated with the magazines *Familia* of Oradea and *Luceafărul* (autumn of 1904, with the poem “Song,” under the alias A. O. Maior). In Sibiu, with her husband’s unconditional support, she published a collection titled



“Library for Children and Youngsters” in 1907–1908, comprised of four collective volumes, aggregating similarly themed texts. The first volume begins with an unusual story by Carmen Sylva (“Cheerful Chirps”), followed by several short stories (“Little Flask,” “The Dream,” “Chew Everything,” “Little Cherry,” “Ștefan and Linișoara”). The second volume is mostly authored by her, also featuring three texts by I. A. Bassarabescu (“Forgiveness,” “Lily” and “Old Man Stan”), with Italian and French translations. In 1908, the author entrusted the Association with 48 copies of the volume, to be distributed to all departmental libraries. The next volume in the series, in a smaller format than the previous two, contains poems by Octavian Goga (“Father Christmas”), prose by Mihail Sadoveanu (“The Settle Story”), Al. Brătescu-Voinești (“Nicușor”) and Maria Cunțan (“Emperor Eagle”), and a translation from Alphonse Daudet (“The Last Lesson”) by I. A. Bassarabescu. Furthermore, it includes texts signed by A. O. Maior (“Spindle of the Lord’s Mother,” “America,” “A Roach Tale”). The volume was supervised by the editor of *Luceafărul* himself.

This volume was praised as one of her finest, with an educational as well as a recreational content, with beautiful illustrations, thus having an indisputable artistic and literary value. The fourth and last volume was published in 1908 and contains texts from plays, stories for young readers, fairy tales and stories for children, signed by Adelina Tăslăuanu (“Kingdom of Old Man Ene,” “The Sick”—after Molière, “The Wise Cat,” “A Riddle”), Maria Cunțan (“Christmas”), Ioan Lapedatu (“Mira, the Emperor’s Daughter”) and Marin Sasu (“The Menagerie”).

The happiness of the new family, who had been working tirelessly for the *Luceafărul*, was forever broken after only 3 years and 7 months, as Adelina died from a heart disease, thus ending her noble endeavors. Her premature death at the young age of 33 definitively ended the collection, even though the fifth volume had been readied for print by the author herself and volume six was almost finished. In 1910, under the supervision of *Luceafărul* editors, a second edition of the first volume was published, with revisions and corrections by Adelina Tăslăuanu. *Luceafărul* magazine contains, among others, several translations from foreign literature (Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson’s *Synnøve Solbakken*; Tolstoy’s “Family Happiness”), as well as a series of chronicles and reports signed by her. In remembrance, Ion Agârbiceanu published an article titled “Resurrection” in *Luceafărul* (no. 9, 1 May 1910). Some of the plays written by Adelina Tăslăuanu include *Old House*, a one act comedy, 1910 and *Magdalena*, a three act drama (Cluj: Carmen Publishing House, P. Barițiu, 1911); Georgiana M. Craik, *Stories for Youth*, translated into English (Bucharest: Socec, 1910).

In *Luceafărul* (9, 3, 1 February 1910), on the footer of the last page (80), the reader’s attention is caught by a paragraph in italics, signed by Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, reading: “Unable to respond in writing to all the friends and acquaintances who sent me their condolences and words of comfort for my great pain . . . I ask them to receive my sincerest gratitude in this manner.”

The next issue of the same magazine, 16 February 1910, in the “Chronicle” section, in gratitude for her entire activity in support of the prestigious publication, republished several eulogies from a series of publications of that time. From then on, for more than six decades, no one gave any new information about the location of the tomb of this

illustrious woman, who spread light and kindness during her life. However, the mystery was finally solved in 1976 by bibliographer Corneliu Dragoman-Lubinschi from the Astra Library of Sibiu, who, at the centennial of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's birth, published an article named "A Strand of Lilac" in the *Harghita* political, social and cultural supplement (April 1976, 17). After some biographical details about the "fair-haired lady," he states:

*With all this in mind, I have repeatedly searched for her grave, without success. I had gotten used to the idea that time had erased all traces, when last year, at the beginning of May, I passed by a black marble funerary monument with the inscription: "Adelina Tăslăuanu, 1877–1910." Surprise turned to emotion, not because the marble was very well preserved, as if everything had been brand new, but because a strand of violet lilac stood proud and smiled at the head of the monument. Someone must have put it there earlier. A symbol of the gentle creature buried beneath? Perhaps, but I believe that the violet turned to sounds and Octavian alongside Adelina Tăslăuanu float in the second quadrille...*

No subsequent actions appear to have been taken then, but 44 years later (in 2020), the author of this biographic endeavor, with the unconditional help of priest and professor Constantin-Valer Necula from St. Andrei Șaguna College of Orthodox Theology Sibiu, rediscovered the her final resting place in the Sibiu Municipal Cemetery.

### **Editor of *Luceafărul* Magazine, the Sibiu Years (1906–1914)**

**F**OLLOWING A proposal from his friend Octavian Goga, as well as due to financial issues, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu resigned his position as a diplomat in the summer of 1906 (Triteanu 1972, 20) and decided to relocate to Sibiu, moving the entire editorial team of *Luceafărul* to no. 2 Schewisgasse. This move was another threshold moment in the life of the Transylvanian crusader, as creditors, aware of his intentions, foreclosed on everything he owned in Budapest. This forced him to sell the printing house for 14,000 crowns to W. Krafft from Sibiu, which was obligated to continue printing the magazine until the liquidation of the entire evaluated sum.

The front cover of the publication read: "Magazine for literature and art. Appears twice a month." In case he published unpopular views or in order to avoid lawsuits, he would write articles, chronicles, literary and bibliographical notes under different aliases, such as: T. Codru, T., Ion Brad, Mihai Stan (only during his Budapest years), O. C. T., T. C., \*\*\*, while some were left unsigned, which prevents us from correctly identifying all of his works.

After a time, Goga expressed his wish to become co-owner of the magazine, even drafting a contract, later amended, but the mercurial poet resisted only until 15 March 1908 (no. 6), when he resigned from the editorial board, as proven by the magazine's

header “Under the supervision of an editorial board.” The following year, the editor Octavian C. Tăslăuanu introduced another change in the magazine’s subtitle: “Illustrated magazine for literature and art.” Also in 1911, a small revision was made to the magazine header: “Illustrated magazine for culture, literature and art. Appears twice a month.” One year later, the title was modified twice, first as “Weekly magazine for literature, art and politics,” when he made peace with O. Goga, appointing him director, and then, following another argument and falling out between the two, the magazine became “Illustrated magazine for literature, art and science. Published by an editorial board.” Due to constant uncertainties during that year, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu published a smaller number of articles, as he was also required to do the work of two editors, first at his main publication and then for *Transilvania* magazine, besides his usual activities at the *Astra*.

Unfortunately, all of his hard work for the affirmation of Romanian unity was cut short in the middle of June 1914, when Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army, was sent to the Galician front. The last issue of *Luceafărul*—13, 14 (1–16 July 1914): 377–424—, dedicated to the Romanian army, would become a bibliophile rarity, being destroyed in the warehouse of W. Krafft Printing House amid the talks about the dissolution of the Danubian Dual Monarchy and the liberation and unconditional unification of Transylvania with the Motherland. There are only two copies of this issue left, one of them in the personal library of his grandson, Gelu Voican Voiculescu, the last page containing an interesting annotation by Octavian C. Tăslăuanu:

*This issue is extremely rare. I gave my second copy to the library of the Sibiu Association, even though the people from the central committee of this cultural institution, where I had worked between 1906 and 1914, acted with cowardice and villainy towards me and my estate. The Hungarian state, which had sentenced me to hang for treason, sold all I had in Sibiu at public auction. The members of the central committee—such as Dr. Ilie Bucur—participated at this auction. This number appeared during the war. Being dedicated to the Romanian Army and mentioning the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, I recalled it from the train station on the day of the mobilization. It remained in storage at W. Krafft, who destroyed it as instructed. If I had sent it, I would have been hanged for certain.*

The second copy is in the possession of the *Astra* County Library of Sibiu, but it is unfortunately incomplete (the pages between 379 and 390 are missing). It also contains a header signed by Tăslăuanu, on page 377: “This issue was returned from the train station at the start of the war in 1914, when the magazine’s editor was mobilized.” This page contains a brief digression titled “The War,” which appears to be unsigned, but the editor mentions “written by Oct. C. Tăslăuanu.” Moreover, the end of the article “Simion

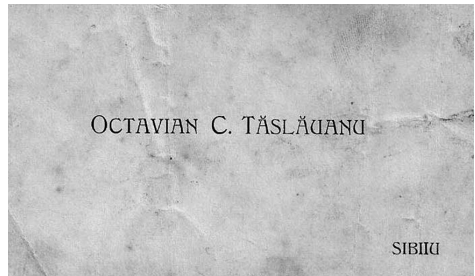


FIG. 5. OCTAVIAN C. TĂSLĂUANU’S business card

Mehedinți” also contains the hand signature of Oct. C. Tăslăuanu. The Sibiu years saw the appearance of the complete collections of *Luceafărul* magazine (1906–1914), as simple or deluxe editions, with wonderful and beautifully drawn hardcovers, bearing ornamental motives from traditional Romanian clothes and weaves (the middle of the front cover has models of the “shirt with a cross,” characteristic of the traditional men’s clothing from Mărginimea Sibiului), which are highly appreciated and coveted by bibliophiles.

## Administrative Secretary of the Sibiu Astra (1906–1914)

**B**EFORE ARRIVING in Sibiu, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu was appointed administrative secretary of the Astra, serving until 1914. He conducted an extremely productive activity by performing tasks related to the custody of museum valuables, as well as reorganizing the People’s Library of the Association, and editing once a month a number of this collection and a calendar at the end of each year, to be sent to all departmental members, in every corner of Transylvania. Between 1911 and 1914 he supervised the publication of 49 numbers of the collection, comprised of different history books and classical anthologies: Vasile Alecsandri, Ion Creangă, Ion Pop-Reteganul, George Coșbuc, Petre Ispirescu, Anton Pann etc., the circulation reaching the threshold of 15,000 copies (1912), 11,861 intended for subscribers (Dragoman 1973, XXIV). In 1910, as a resumption of the Children and Youth Library, he initiated a Library of Youth program, in charge of the collections being Ioan Borcea, who regrettably failed to deliver any outstanding work in his nine published titles (Popa 2005, 255). In the autumn of the following year, he signed a contract with student-librarian Sebastian Bornemisa from Orăștie, the owner of the National Library, who would edit a new collection of literary volumes overseen by Astra, beautifully titled “Library of Writers from Our Parts.” The first volume, signed by A. Ciura, is named *Memories*, and was followed by *Sketches and Stories* by I. Agârbiceanu and *Other Times* by G. Stoica. The collection did not last, as literature was not at the forefront of Astra’s activities and focus—see *Lanuri* 4, 5–6 (Oct. 1937): 208. It also contains the *Writers Almanac* (Oct. 1911), Octavian C. Tăslăuanu being mentioned on pages 79–82.

The First World War put his organizational skills to the test, as he was mobilized on 1 September 1914 as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, assigned to the Third Battalion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment of Sibiu. This battalion was stationed in Făgăraș and, after a brief training period, was rapidly deployed on the Galician front to defend Stanislau (Stanyslaviv), Halych, the Dniester area, Rozvadov, Oslava, Khyriv, and other sectors. On Octavian C. Tăslăuanu’s arrival on the battlefield, the Austro-Hungarian forces were in full retreat and, as casualties were extremely high, many units and sub-units were merged. Thusly, after only three months, from an entire regiment (over 3,500 men), only 170 were left, while the 11<sup>th</sup> Company left Făgăraș with 267 soldiers and ended with only 7, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, the last remaining officer from the Făgăraș

Battalion, among them. On 29 November 1914, on account of his weakened constitution, he was sent to Sibiu to recuperate (Fărcaș 2018, 95). After more than a month in hospital, he was reassigned to the additional battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Subcompany), where he started training.

Octavian C. Tăslăuanu was awarded two medals for his bravery in March 1915: *Signum Laudis* and *Verdienst-Kreuz*, but his actual plan was to leave Transylvania: see *Ardealul* 1, 22 (12–19 July 1941): 12, article “Personalities from Ardeal: Octavian C. Tăslăuanu,” unsigned. Using his infirmity to his advantage, he obtained a five week leave to Mehadia Sanatorium to cure his “rheumatism.” He then began to reconnoiter the border crossings, in order to head for the Kingdom of Romania. Despite being recalled three times to his battalion (Tăslăuanu 1915, 347), on the night of 2 May 1915, following a well thought plan, he crossed the mountains into Romania, successfully reaching Bucharest (Netea 2006, 28). The Central Committee of the Association, after hearing the news, fired him from the position of administrative secretary, beginning with 1 June 1915—see *Transylvania* 46, 1–6 (July 1915): 93—, fully reinstating him only on 8 February 1919 (including the full restitution of his salaries). Caught in the political fray, he would never return to Sibiu, despite the fact that, during the meeting of 24 September 1919, the committee decided to call him back, as the Association required qualified staff in order to resume its activity after the war.

With the help of Nicolae Iorga (Maior 2016, 175), the first volume of impressions and stories from the Galician front was published in early June 1915, titled *Three Months on the Battlefield*, with two subtitle variants: *The Paper of a Romanian, Officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army* and *The Paper of a Romanian, Officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army, Who Fought, Alongside Romanian Infantrymen from Transylvania, on the Galician Front*. The book was published at the order of Ion I. C. Brătianu, on the War Ministry’s expense, reaching 6,000 copies (Bucharest: Stănculescu Bookprint, “Energiea” Graphical Arts Establishment, 320 pages). Its literary and documentary value contributed to its publication in another two consecutive editions. The sec-

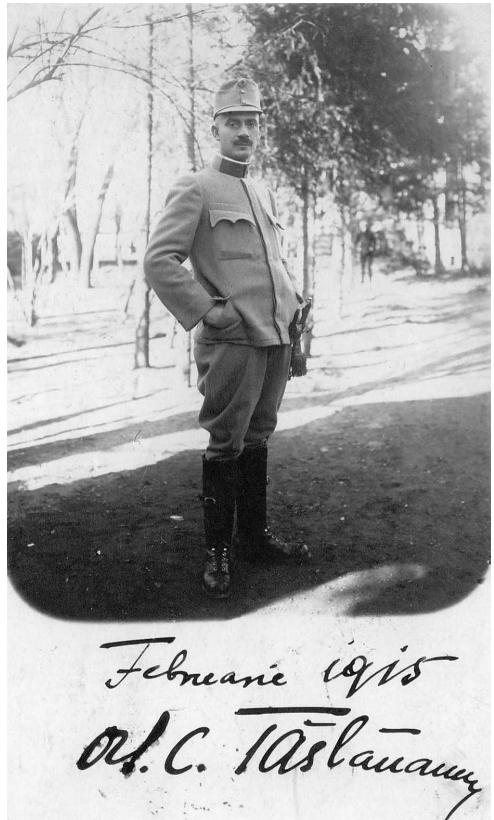


FIG. 6. OCTAVIAN C. TĂSLĂUANU in Austro-Hungarian officer’s uniform. SOURCE: Romanian Academy Library.

ond edition, revised and enlarged, was also published in 1915 at the C. Sfetea School Printing House in Bucharest, under the title *Three Months on the Battlefield: The Paper of a Romanian, Officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army, Who Fought, Alongside Romanian Infantrymen from Transylvania, on the Galician Front* (356 pages). All copies contained the author's signature (either in red or blue ink), as well as map of southwestern Galicia, on a 1: 600,000 scale. The third edition, revised and enlarged, was printed in 1916, at the C. Sfetea School Printing House, with a total of 372 pages. Even though this wartime journal proved tremendously successful, in May 1916, the Command of the Infantry and Public Administration Military Schools published a 15 page brochure at the Universala Institute of Graphic Arts, Iancu Ionescu, titled "Appendix to 'Three Months on the Battlefield' by Mr. Oct. C. Tăslăuanu." It acknowledged its value as a document revealing the cruel realities of war, stating among others however that the author's sincerity "often bordered on cynicism" and disapproving of the manner in which the former officer of the Austro-Hungarian army exposed the lack of training and orientation of the Romanian armed forces. It also accused him of weakness and lack of endurance, camaraderie and military training, as well as useless bragging, and of the failure of justify his desertion from the Galician front.

In 1916, the volume was translated into French: *Trois mois de campagne en Galicie: Carnet de route d'une Transylvain, officier dans l'armée austro-hongroise* (Paris-Neuchâtel: Attinger Frères, 259 pp.), while in 1918 it was published in English: *With the Austrian Army in Galicia* (London: Skeffington & Son, 255 pp.).

Now in his mature years and enjoying a relative financial stability, after two years of searches, at the age of 41, he married Fatma Alice Sturdza (1893–1964) on 20 October 1918 (old style), in the city on the banks of Bahlui. Constantin Argetoianu spoke of her as an "uncontrollable woman who drove him to his doom" (1996, 225). Tăslăuanu had met her on the front, where she was a field nurse. The religious ceremony took place on 10 January 1919. She was part of a noble family, her parents being Radu and Maria Sturdza, while her grandfather was the politician Vasile Sturdza (1810–1870), a militant for the unification of Romanian Principalities.

The family was blessed with a son, Radu Ioan, born on 27 August 1919, nicknamed "Beetle." Unfortunately, he died in infancy (2 September 1920) due to the error of a pharmacist who administered a medicine incorrectly. The following year, 1920, was a dark year for him, as he ceased the publication of *Luceafărul* magazine and resigned from the position of vice-president of the Romanian Writers' Society (11 March 1920), where he had been active for a sole year. His pain was somewhat relieved by the birth of a daughter on 11 August 1921, Dafina, to whom he dedicated the first volume of the *Confessions* cycle. A lesser known fact is that the godfather of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's daughter was none other than Miron Cristea, the primate metropolitan of Romania at that time.

## Director of *Luceafărul* Magazine, the Bucharest Years (1919–1920)

**T**HE MAGAZINE resumed publication on 1 January 1919 (year XIV), in Bucharest, with the following subtitle: “Magazine for literature and art.” Its head office was located at 5–9 Numa Pompiliu Street. In its new form, the editorial secretaries were A. Busuioceanu and Nichifor Crainic (alias Ion Dobre), while Octavian C. Tăslăuanu was the director. Nichifor Crainic, after being caught embezzling money from the magazine’s cash register, was replaced with Gala Galaction. Immediately after Octavian C. Tăslăuanu’s death however, Crainic cowardly took revenge on his former superior, publishing demeaning pieces about him in *Gândirea* magazine 21, 9 (November 1942): 533–534.

On 1 March 1919, he succeeded in reestablishing the “Luceafărul Institute of Graphic Arts” in Bucharest, supported by Jean Chrissoveloni, who bought, renovated and upgraded the old workshops of Albert Baer. At the same time, he bought the printing house and the “Ardealul Institute of Graphic Arts” from Cluj, with a branch in Târgu-Mureș (Tăslăuanu 1996, 23), but after only one year, following an argument with Chrissoveloni, he resigned from his position as institute director (Argetoianu 1995, 117).

Thusly, the publication of *Luceafărul* magazine stopped, its last issue being 8–9 of 16 April 1920, when the editorial board wrote:

*Due to technical difficulties, which forces us to raise the price of the subscription once again, we suspend the publication of the magazine until fall, hoping to resume it under better conditions. The material contributed during the summer will be gradually added to the new issues.*

## The Political Activity of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu

**A**FIGHTING AND energetic spirit, eager to contribute to the founding of Greater Romania, he was elected as deputy of Tulgheș in the 1919 parliamentary elections, as a candidate of the People’s League. He was then appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Alexandru Averescu government (13 March–16 November 1920) and minister of Public Works (16 November 1920–1 January 1921), proving himself quite active, by proposing a series of laws and reforms necessary for the restructuring of the national economy (the establishment of an explosives factory in Făgăraș; the nationalization of Reșița Steelworks; the organization of the oil industry by creating the IRDP—Romanian acronym for the Romanian Oil Industry; the nationalization of Mica Factory; bills for a monopoly on oil and grain trade; the establishment of Timișoara Polytechnic; funds for the construction of the Bucharest Commercial Academy), etc. (Tăslăuanu 1996, 24). It seems that these actions harmed the interests of some who aimed to get rich fast (Șandru 2012, 232), so he became the target of a shameful slander campaign perpetrated by liberals. They made up all sorts of imaginary fraudu-

lent activities, forcing him to resign. He was bullied and ridiculed, even called “thug,” “thief,” “bandit,” “millionaire,” “minister of rushed business,” “troublesome minister,” etc., all false, as nothing was ever proven. The only effect was the marginalization of the creative and highly organized energy of his ministry (Tăslăuanu 1996, 30).

The innocence of his deeds transpires from several other memoirs, one stating:

*Ambitious as he was, he became a minister in Wallachia. As those were times with countless behind-the-scenes dealings, the detractors of Cescu made a little song: “God, make me a Tăslăuan / Only for a month, not a year.” I believe he was not as greedy or unscrupulous as the song depicts him to be. (Sporea 2001, 60) (Octavian C. Tăslăuanu’s nicknames were Cescu and Tăgnea.)*

The same thing was stated by Victor Moldovan in his book *Memoirs of a Politician from the Interwar Years* (2016), after his death, which contains the following paragraph:

*For all these shady dealings, which provoked a violent campaign from the opposition, the scapegoat was a man from Transylvania, the minister of Industry and Commerce, Octavian Tăslăuan. The king himself called Tăslăuan a scoundrel, a thief, a bandit, due to external intrigues of course. His infamy as a dishonest man had become so widespread, that it was used in the entertainment magazines of Tănase at “Cămbuș,” where a song was played with the following line “God, make me Tăslăuan, not for a day, but for a year.” This man seems to be innocent. Other people, more experienced people, made these dealings. Tăslăuan, who deserves credit for editing *Luceafărul* magazine in Budapest, died a poor man, as far as I know. He visited me at my house during the passport thing, to provide some information, and I had mentioned Tăslăuan in the long line of victims from Transylvania. (Moldovan 2016, 110)*

Due to his continuous quarrels with Octavian Goga, he was not included in the ministerial team of the new General Averescu government. Between 1926 and 1927, he was however elected senator from Mureș, when he submitted a proposal for the participation of MPs at the first Pan-European congress, held in Vienna; cf. *România nouă* 3, 45 (268)(25 July 1926): 2. Heartbroken and disgusted by the political life of the kingdom, he isolated himself, writing and publishing political and economic studies, all based on a macrosystemic phenomenology (Tăslăuanu 1996, 31). Unable to resist politics, he joined Iuliu Maniu and enrolled in the National Peasant Party in the autumn of 1932, without holding any important title or position.

## The Last Years of his Life

**I**N 1933, Bucovina I. E. Torouțiu Printing House of Bucharest published the first volume of the tenth section of the *Confessions* cycle: *Political Waves*, which contains several articles dedicated to Iuliu Maniu. The first edition (346 pp.) was abusively confiscated immediately after being published, under the pretext of disturbing the public



order. The book was republished only after censoring the part (pp. 291–344 of the first edition) which analyzed the constitutional crisis and the Restoration. Thus, the second edition only has 292 pages. We were able to identify a valuable complete and uncensored copy of the book at Mureș County Library, among the books donated by historian Vasile Netea, the copy belonging to Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's family. The main cover contains the following handwritten paragraph by Fatma: "Book seized by the camarilla of," presumably the Carlists, as the last word was erased. Beneath lies the signature of Fatma. This copy also contains an authentic dedication written by Codru, mentioning: "I dedicate the first copy of the print run to my mother" ("mother": name given to Fatma).

On his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu saw his daughter Dafina start a family, as she married mining engineer Ștefan Voiculescu, from Dioști, a small town approximately 40 km from Craiova (the religious ceremony took place in Bucharest, at Postăvari White Church, the second oldest religious establishment in the capital, after Bucur Church, demolished in 1984).

Two months after Romania joined the anti-Soviet war (15 April 1941), *Dacia* magazine was founded as a publication fighting for the recovery of Romania's former borders. The published texts recorded Romania's trauma, according to the rhetoric of the era, and presented it as a reality felt by the entire society. The apparently literary but staunchly militant publication, despite being ephemeral, is important in Romanian publishing history due to the quality of its texts, authored by prestigious individuals such as: Zevedei Barbu, Vasile Beneș, Ernest Bernea, Alexandru Busuioceanu, Bazil Munteanu, Grigore Popa, Vasile Stoica, Dragoș Vrânceanu, Corneliu Coposu, Tudor Ciortea, Simion Mehedinți, Mircea Vulcănescu, Vlaicu Bârna, Onisifor Ghibu, Ion I. Nistor, Mihnea Ghiorghiu, Nicolae Cartoian, George Sbârcea, Dumitru Berciu, N. A. Constantinescu, Dan Botta, Ioan Lupaș, Georgiu Murnu, Romulus Vulcănescu, as well as poets Vasile Voiculescu, Ion Pillat, Mihai Beniuc, Nicu Caranica, Ion Veverca, Emil Botta and of course Dan Botta and Emil Giurgiuca, whose spiritus rector was Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, then 65 years of age. Publishing history and literary historiography overlooked the short-lived *Dacia* magazine (1941–1942) due to its time of apparition and the radical nationalist orientation of its articles. Furthermore, the content of the studies published explains why the magazine was sidestepped during the communist period.



FIG. 7. OCTAVIAN C. TĂSLĂUANU,  
November 1937

In poor health, Octavian C. Tăslăuanu retired from publishing after the magazine's 7<sup>th</sup> issue, where, on page 8, we find the following information:

*Because of his health, Mr. Octavian C. Tăslăuanu has retired from the editorial board of our magazine. We regretfully accept the retirement of the great nationalist warrior and extend our gratitude for his valuable effort.*

In early 1942 the health of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu worsened and he went through a kidney removal operation, a rare feat at the time, performed by a renowned surgeon, Liviu Cîmpeanu (Tăslăuanu 1996, 40). His poor health was also caused by his smoking habits and pulmonary insufficiency, a sickness which eventually defeated him at the age of 66 (23 October 1942, time of death 13:45, Bucharest, according to the 1942 records). His last diary entry was on 15 September 1942:

*This is my last day in Zărnîfoaia, which for me was horrendous. I return to Bucharest sicker and weaker than when I arrived. The dampness here caused me rheumatic pains, my heart is weaker, my breath harder. At the slightest movement, my hear starts pounding. Restless sleep, on and off. No appetite. Food foes not reach my stomach, it just drops like lead. I think about smoking. Why quit, when I feel the end coming. Extremely depressed. I do not read or write anything. I sit all day crippled by disease. Barely browsed the papers. . . (Page 38 of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's diary.) (Tăslăuanu 1976, 290)*

He was buried in Bellu Cemetery Bucharest, on Writers' Alley, alongside his son Radu Ioan. In his memory, the editorial board of *Luceafărul* magazine, the new series, 2, 11 (November 1942): 422, wrote an obituary titled "On the Death of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu," while the following issue is fully dedicated to his memory, with a long series of writings about his life and work, authored by Ion Agârbiceanu ("Octavian C. Tăslăuanu and *Luceafărul*: Several Aspects"), Ilie Dăianu ("Octavian C. Tăslăuanu"), Petre Poruțiu ("Octavian C. Tăslăuanu the Economist"), Aurel P. Bănuț ("*Luceafărul*... in 1902") and Victor Papilian ("Octavian Tăslăuanu and the Drama of Silence").

Since Ion Agârbiceanu had known him better, he published a brief piece about the great Transylvanian man in the "Notes" section of *Transilvania* magazine 73, 11 (November 1942): 890–892. There was also an obituary in *Telegraful român* 90, 44 (1 November 1942): 3, and two more published in Blaj, in *Unirea: Foaie bisericască-politică* 52, 43 (7 November 1942): 4 and *Unirea poporului* 24, 45 (8 November 1942): 4, which states:

*On 25<sup>th</sup> October, the warrior and writer from Transylvania, Oct. Tăslăuanu, was buried in Bucharest. He was a prominent figure from Transylvania, part of a generation of scholars who fought and laid the foundations for the great unification of all Romanians. He was born in the Szekler Land, in the village of Bilbor, the son of the priest from that Romanian commune. He learned to be a good Romanian, to love and serve his people in his parents' house [sic!, parochial] and in the schools of Blaj. He followed these teachings for his entire life.*

The news of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's death reached his childhood friend, Sextil Pușcariu, rather late, so he published, in the second issue of *Transilvania* magazine (February 1943), an article titled "Letters from Octavian Tăslăuanu." This text was later published separately, as a brochure, at Dacia Traiană Graphical Arts Institute in Sibiu (1943). Based on more than 50 letters and postcards that he had received, Sextil Pușcariu created a general outline of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu's personality, focusing on the years he supervised *Luceafărul* magazine in Budapest, also fondly recounting the support he was given during the first ethnographic trip organized in Bran (May 1910), looking for artifacts for the Association Museum. Equally emotional is Fatma Tăslăuanu's article, "In Memory of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu," published in *Eroii Patriei: Organ patriotic militar de propagandă democratică* (Heroes of the Motherland: Patriotic, military and democratic propaganda paper) 3, 33 (January 1947): 10–13.

The bio-bibliographical overview of the personality and work of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu would have been shorter and "poorer" in certain aspects related to the man and his family members if not for the numerous documents and photographs provided with great generosity and optimism by Mrs. Stela Mitruță, née Tăslăuanu, the daughter of Cornel Tăslăuanu (the writer's younger brother). She encouraged me to continue my endeavor and I would thus wish to extend my gratitude. My gratitude also goes to Cornel Tăslăuanu's granddaughter (the eldest daughter of Maricel Tăslăuanu), Claudia Tăslăuanu (married Cozmatchi), who readily and happily provided tens of novel photographs, papers and letters, thus significantly contributing to the dissemination of the Tăslăuanu biographic information. I also wish to thank Doina-Dana Chira and Liana Drăgan, as well as Andrei Ionaș (all grandsons and granddaughters of Victoria Tăslăuanu, married Domide) for photographs and biographical details.



FIG. 8. Postcard sent by OCTAVIAN C. TĂSLĂUANU to SEXTIL PUȘCARIU, 27 October 1912.

SOURCE: Sextil Pușcariu Institute of Linguistics and Literary History Cluj-Napoca.

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### Abstract

#### Unique Aspects from the Life and Activity of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu

Octavian C. Tăslăuanu (1 February 1876–23 October 1942) is one of the leading Transylvanian representatives of the “steel” generation, whose publishing activity was entirely devoted to the ideal of cultural and political unity for all Romanians. This scientific endeavor is meant to be a restitution, as his personality as well as his works have been repeatedly affected by ruthless censorship, either during his life or after his death. Octavian C. Tăslăuanu is relatively unknown, while numerous poorly documented articles, signed by different authors, introduced many inaccuracies in regards to his life and work. This eventually affected the research and created confusion among readers, as it is currently difficult to find the undistorted truth about this patriot and his place in the history of Romanian literature. The overwhelming actuality of his writings requires a full re-edit of his memoirs and oeuvre for the young generation, thus “reconsidering him” and establishing him as a true contemporary. The author of this paper used ideas, fragments and images from the bio-bibliographical overview of the personality and work of Octavian C. Tăslăuanu, which he has compiled as coordinator of a series of memoirs dedicated to the great man, scheduled to be published in 2020.

### Keywords

Bilbor, Transylvania, *Lucaefărul* magazine, Astra of Sibiu, Romanian patriot

