ROMANIAN HONORARY SIGNS AND OFFICIAL BADGES

(I)

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Abstract. In this first part of the article the authors make up a description, in chronological order, a Romanian honorary signs which was created that distinction for long military service in the army. These signs were given honorary royal decree; officers who actually served in the military for 25 years and 40 years, and regimental flags by the same rules; also was created for permanent police officers, as insignia of office, and official badges. Within the Romanian decorations, a special category is that of ''honorary'' signs that were permanent and had a commemorative character, whereas awarded after a certain number of years of service in the military or a police function. We will present in chronological order, all signs ''honorary'' and some of the Romanian official badges, less known.

Keywords: Honorary, Sign, Official Badges, Military service, Insignia.

HONORARY SIGN of 18/25 YEARS

The first is called *Honorary Sign of Officers* established by the Decree on 15th of June, 1872¹, which was created as a mark of distinction for military service long, and is designed for a service officers 18 (silver), and for those who have reached 25 years in the army (gold), the right to wear it continues after retirement. Honorary Sign oval diameter is 31 mm and 35 mm, composed is a plate on the left surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, and on the right by a wreath of laurel leaves joined at the bottom through a ribbon as a node. It is surmounted by the crown prince, having on the obverse number "XVIII" or "XXV" and on the reverse the figure of Prince Charles raised. The honorary sign silver figure is golden reign (18 years), and honorary gold mark (25 years) royal figure is silver. It is worn on the left chest, fitted with a 32 mm wide ribbon, her colours are blue and yellow longitudinal stripes, unable to bear the honorary unsigned.





¹ Official Gazette, No.132 of June 15, 1872.

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HONORARY SIGN of 25/40 YEARS

Aforementioned Decree was repealed and amended by another decree on 22nd of December, 1930², which was created Honorary Military Service Mark of Officers that distinction for long military service in the army. These signs were given honorary royal decree; officers who actually served in the military for 25 years and 40 years, and regimental flags by the same rules. Note that while officers and regiments served during the campaign double counted in calculating the years served. For officers the right to carry is given life. Honorary mark 25 years is oval, with a diameter of 35/31 mm, and consists of a silver plate surrounded by a wreath on the left side of oak leaves, and on the right by a wreath of leaves bay, both gold and united them down a ribbon-shaped knot. It is fitted at the top with gold crown on the obverse being number "XXV", and on the reverse



the figure of King Charles II. Both the number and figure are gold and royal gate on the left side of the chest, attached by a ribbon of 32 mm, its colours are yellow and blue thin longitudinal stripes.³

Honorary mark of 40 years is a cross border repeated prominent, whose arms are 35 mm long and 7.5 mm wide, and the heads were 10 mm wide. Edges are golden cross out in relief on a width of 1 mm and a height of 0.5 mm, both sides of the silver cross. On the obverse between the cross arms a garland of gold, with the left branch of oak leaves and right of laurel leaves. Branches are joined at the bottom by a ribbon in the shape of a knot on the top and separated, heads closer to 1.5 mm from the edge of relief. Inside the chain is "XL" golden number. On the reverse applied in the same place, same inside the wreath and gold royal figure. Honorary sign of wear on the left breast attached by a ribbon 38 mm wide, with broad yellow longitudinal stripes with red and blue stripes narrow, not being able to wear it without the Honorary sign.



SIGN for COURAGE and DEVOTION

Sign for courage and devotion⁴, was created for permanent police officers, as insignia of office. It consists of a metal plate white, elliptical in shape, size 30/20 mm, which was applied in the middle, coat of arms, made of gilded bronze and enamel edges country colours on the back plate is engraved serial number, and validated through a card recognition. Prefects of police, police chief of police in

⁴ Official Gazette, No.181 of November 4, 1903.

² Official Gazette, No.290 of December 22, 1930.

³ Bring in this way thanks to aid in shooting, Mr. Claudiu Vulpan dentist, member of photo club "Mircea Faria", from Craiova, the National Association of Arms Collectors and the Association of "Military Tradition".

general and their substitutes were solemn ceremonies and publish a tricolour scarf with tassels silk yarn, having width of 8.5 mm and a length of 13 mm tassels and the dress being, tuxedo, high hat, tie and white gloves. Special safety agencies, and they had on their plate and a notebook. Safety plate special agents have the same form with the same dimensions described above, but nickel. Police officers who gave evidence in the performance of their duties of loyalty and courage could be allowed to wear a

distinguishing mark consisting of a medal. The medals were made of metal and three classes, gold, silver and bronze. Their shape is circular with a diameter of 30 mm and a thickness of 3 mm, with the obverse in relief effigy of the sovereign with circular legend "CHARLES I KING OF ROMANIA" and embossed stamps on the reverse motto "FOR COURAGE AND DEVOTION", surrounded by two branches of oak joined by a ribbon. Medal hanging from a ribbon to wear silk, rips, width 30 mm, consisting of three vertical bands coloured in the following way, in between red tape (14 mm) and one blue stripe edges (8 mm). Granted only by royal decree, accompanied by a patent. Medal was awarded for life, not transferable. On 12th of October, 1904, the sign



was changed turning into *Manhood and Faith Medal* ⁵ which may be conferred and any public official or private person that will be contributed to maintaining or restoring public order and safety, will be brought large police services, will be saved a person's life or possessions danger of his life. Medal made of metal, have three classes, I, II and III. Its shape is oval, vertical diameter of 35 mm, and 27 mm horizontally. On the obverse is embossed effigy of the king with the legend "CHARLES I KING OF ROMANIA", and on the reverse, also embossed stamps, slogan "MANHOOD AND FAITH" and a wreath of laurel leaves. Have a medal hanging system consisting of two branches of laurel, with a silk ribbon Rips (30 mm) made in the middle of a pale yellow cuff (18 mm) and having one edge of each strip blue and red (3 mm). It is given life by royal decree, accompanied by a patent and was not transferable.

At the end of 1913⁶ this medal, which benefited only police officers, plus a mark to be given and soldiers who took part in the military campaign this year. To existing medal ribbon plus a wide metal bracelet 5 mm full-width-coloured medal ribbon with straight sides and semicircular ends apart. The middle bracelet is embossed

⁵ Official Gazette, No.192 of November 4, 1904.

⁶ Report of the Minister of War with No.12954 of December 28, 1913, approved by the king through high apostille.

stamps letters, "CAMPAIGN 1913". This bracelet is disposed on the ribbon and across color and was caught by a clip at a distance of 30 mm from where it was hanging ribbon.

Nr.3429 by Royal Decree on 21st of December 1916, the initial model and have added two swords crossed under the crown of laurel.

By a decree on 10th of June 1928⁷, the prefects and police inspectors were to wear a badge consisting of an oval metal plate with email background, national colours (red, yellow and blue), arranged vertically around a golden laurel wreath thread, tied with a golden ribbon. Above will be all golden coat of arms and the means placed



transversely a metal plate that will be written in black letters "POLICE PREFECT" or "POLICE INSPECTOR". Back to engrave a serial number corresponding to the recognition of the official's book. These badges had a length of 40 mm and a width of 20 mm and always wear the buttonhole on the lapel of his coat as. Port badge was required, both at work and outside it, except when people were forced to wear them on holiday, in which case wearing the badge was optional. Also, officers and border guards, stations, warehouses etc. wore during the service required a special left arm, indicating the place of service. This sign was square with 65 mm width and 75 mm length from the same cloth as that of clothing. At stake was embroidered with gold thread, "BORDER POLICE" legend" (or station, hall and so on). Crown above legend was embroidered gold thread all red cloth. Around the square were two embroidered borders, the interior of shiny gold thread, gold thread outer mat as letters. Outer frame ends up and down the middle in sharp form. Wear a sign caught or elastic braid around the arm to mantle or jacket.

THE SCOUT WAR BADGES

Decree on 17^{th*} of July 17, 1935⁸ approved the establishment of a war badges called "Scouts from 1916 - 1919", made of solid silver, in the form of a cross composed of four petals lily with dimensions of 55 mm from one point to another of the cross, both vertically and horizontally. Among the branches of the cross are set two shiny silver cross swords with handles mate accentuated with a length of 65 mm. The front has a silver eagle gold mat with a thickness of 1 mm and 1 mm based on the wings, exceeding 20 mm above the tip of the lily forming cross. Eagle

⁷ Official Gazette, No.125 of June 10, 1928.

⁸ Official Gazette, Part I, No.161 of July 17, 1935.

is in the middle, chest royal figure in a circle with shiny silver crown, having a thickness of 1 mm. Badge is embossed in width and less pronounced at the ends so the vertical curved, plus the

thickness of the base of the mid badge are a total of about 8 mm. On the ribbon at the eagle is three times inscription "SCOUTS OF THE WAR" and the lower petal lily forming cross has posted years "1916-1919". Reverse of the badge is smooth, which is the serial number and fitted with a steel needle clip that attaches the coat on the right side of the chest. It may be granted to all scouts who proved that during the campaign have served besides military units, formations or health militarized civilian authorities. Those who meet the conditions, be issued a certificate and their name was listed in a special register.



BEST SKI BADGE

Badge ''Good Skier'' was established and was given by regulation on 9th of October 1935⁹. Grant aimed selecting officers, NCOs and units of the band Mountain, which proved special skills and advanced technique in skiing. Form is a skier winged badge on green cloth background and officers were embroidered with gold thread and NCOs and troops is embroidered with yellow silk. Wear on the left arm about 70 mm above the elbow, only on a competitive basis and cited the order of the day. Officers received the badge Mountain Corps commander during the contest which is held annually, while Ski Championship Cup ''His Majesty Charles II''. For NCOs and troops were given units as a result of ski competitions that were held in units annually if the time was ripe.

THE OFFICER BADGE

On 19th of January, 1937¹⁰ was established '*The badge reserve and retired officers, coming from work*'. It is solid silver with dimensions 50x40 mm, representing an eagle embossed, polished gold plated with enamel coat of arms in heraldic colours, sitting on his chest. Crown of Romania, in email white with royal initials 'C.C.' below the left corner



⁹ Official Gazette, Part I, No.232 of October 9, 1935.

¹⁰ Official Gazette, Part I, No.14 of January 19, 1937.

of the badge, is applied "R.O.R." monogram in white enamel is applied as coat of arms. Oak and laurel branches surrounding the shield is embossed in silver oxidized linked at the bottom of the badge with a ribbon in the colours of the national flag. Badge back is polished with a special clip, including serial number control. It is given as a name, all reserve and retired officers, coming from work, being worn on the left chest. Parallel to this there was a small badge format (21x17 mm), which carry the silver buttonhole and was executed large format model.

BADGES of NCOs

From 27th of October 1937¹¹ to establish "Badge NCOs coming up and withdrawal from activity" (55x40 mm), which was made of solid silver enamelled, representing a shield dome, surrounded on the sides by two branches of laurel, with the Slit top of crown branches, and at the bottom sunshine yellow metal (10 mm), fine grinding, whose rays are reflected on the national colours shield on it crosses a weapon of infantry with bayonets, with a cavalry sword, which start from either side of the sun metal tops with sword and bayonet stuck on branches of laurel leaves. Both gun bayonet and sword are all made of silver. Shield (38x24 mm) email includes national colours, arranged vertically and demarcated by a thin strand gold. The broad leaves of the two branches of laurel (7 mm), employing shield is well illustrated and finely enamelled, polished green and median rib and the outer edge of it is gold. Oxidized silver crown in steel colour, well illustrated, with red purple beneath, is placed on top of the shield, which is formed in the opening two branches. The shield will be placed initials "S.R.R.", made of silver and thus applied; "S." the colour yellow, on blue "R." and "R." in red. Badge is polished back and clip with a special

device and a serial number. It is worn on the left chest, only uniform in the parade and official solemnities and badge small size (30x20 mm) for buttonhole was made of silver and the same model as the large format being worn on lapel to any outfit and in any occasion, having no restriction, as a sign of recognition. This badge was given to NCOs, Re-employed in the reserve and withdrawal activity and automatically derived from all active NCOs who pass up position by resignation, retirement or removal position for incurable infirmity.



¹¹ Official Gazette, Part I, No.248 of October 27, 1937.

PRE - MILITARY BADGES

Although pre-military training of youth is organized by the Law on 11th of May 1934, badge and conditions for appearance were established by regulation on 10th of April 1936¹², as amended by the regulation on 26th of January 1938¹³. Brooches shaped like a pre-military badge (65x38 mm) with stylized eagle in the middle with royal insignia above the wing and the left in a circle, coat of arms and legs coloured eagle crowned initials "P.P.". This grant officers and active and reserve, youth premilitary attending training sessions and some civilians, it has three classes of changes to each of them (gold, silver and bronze). Pre-military badge was accompanied by patent and wear the right chest.



The same badge, but with different dimensions (46x27 mm) are required to wear Basque and civilians had a miniature badge (30x17 mm) of metal and Wear appropriate class in the left lapel.

BADGE of MILITARY JUSTICE

Badge of Military Justice founded on 16th of April 1938 ¹⁴, was solid silver (60x35 mm), oval embossed with the country enamel shield means being polished heraldic colours. Steel crown affixed to guard sword and below crown royal initials "C.C." white enamel with gold thin strand around them, on a sword blade between the shield and guard. Justice turn is placed under royal initials above the shield and tasurile are hung in right and left. Oak and laurel branches surrounding the shield, finely worked in relief were oxidized silver and branch lines being crossed back across

the tip of the sword. Back badge was polished with a special clip, including serial number and replace the collar insignia uniform. This badge was granted to all officers of military justice, military judges confirm and badge was worn on the left chest above the pocket, all outfits, uniform integral part of military justice. Served as prosecutors recognition and military magistrates, they were dressed in civilian or office. In the first case, hidden under the lapel badge to wear civilian clothes, showing when military magistrates quality declines.



¹² Official Gazette, Part I, No.85 of April 10, 1936.

¹³ Official Gazette, Part I, No.20 of January 26, 1938.

¹⁴ Official Gazette, Part I, No.89 of April 16, 1938.

BADGE of VOLUNTEERS

To symbolize the spirit of duty and faith of young people in the country who voluntarily engaged in the military (18 years), was founded on 5th of August 1939¹⁵, *Volunteer Badge*. It was made of brass (copper and zinc), form the oval (60x40 mm) with clip fastening at the back, and give all volunteers, from those of contingent 1937. In her field, the letter "V", superimposed over a wreath of laurel branches surrounding the crown and figure, as they are the coat of arms, carrying it on the left side of the chest.



BADGE OF ROMANIAN VOLUNTEERS 1916-1919

Volunteer of the Romanian reunification war (1916-1919), on 8th of February 1940¹⁶ was established *badge ''Romanian volunteers''*, which was given to the legions organized Romanian allies. Badge was made, all of brass, silver oxidized form is oval (52x37 mm). Golden crown, is at the top and royal figure 'F.F.' underneath, polishing silver. Enamelled coat of arms in heraldic colours was located at the crossing of two swords and figures 'V.R.' and swords of gold colour guard, handles and arms from being a scarf for years; "1916-1919", all inside a crown of oak leaves. This hook, located in the back, where the serial number being worn on the right side of the chest.



BADGES "DISABLED VETERANS" and "REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN HEROES

IN WAR"

By decrees on 2nd of March 1942¹⁷ was set; badge of ''War Invalids reunification war'' and badge ''Remembering the war heroes for reunification people'', both made of brass and clip fastening at the back and is worn on the right side of the chest. The first is in the field, a soldier with helmet, saw in half and left the year ''1941'' (41.5 mm).



¹⁷ Official Gazette, Part I, No.52 of March 2, 1942.

¹⁵ Official Gazette, Part I, No.179 of August 5, 1939.

¹⁶ Official Gazette, Part I, No.32 of February 8, 1940.

The second (42.5 mm) has a cross field on a crown of thorns placed on its pedestal being written in relief year "1941" around it is to start a halo of ten rays. On it had the right to wear one of the family members of people killed in the war for reunification.



In conclusion, we can say that all parts shown are the historical value because we can determine the evolution of a system of rewards for military and civilian, for various merits medals value because some of them are part of the form and Romanian decorations and insignographics value, which is an auxiliary science more recent.

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