

SOME DATA ON A. L. MONTANDON (1852-1922) IN THE CORRESPONDENCE OF G. T. KIRILEANU (1872-1960)

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Abstract. *From the vast correspondence of the great scholar G. T. Kirileanu (1872-1960) that he had with the most various personalities, the authors publish two unpublished documents in connection with the A. L. Montandon (1852-1922) one of the wellknown entomologists-hemipterologists of his time. The first one, a letter dated February 25th 1942 was sent from Bucharest by Roger Bolomey that quoted from his memory data on life and scientific activity of the naturalist. The second one is a post card dated February 25/9^h 1915 was written by A. L. Montandon himself and deals on the edition of his work "En marge du Procès de la Science", Geneva, 1914.*

Keywords: *G. T. Kirileanu, corresponsdence, A. L. Montandon, R. Bolomey.*

Rezumat. Unele date despre A. L. Montandon (1852-1922). În corespondența lui G. T. Kirileanu (1872-1960). *Din uriașa corespondență pe care marele cărturar G. T. Kirileanu (1872-1960) a purtat-o cu cele mai diverse personalități, autorii publică două documente inedite legate de naturalistul A. L. Montandon (1852-1922), unul dintre cei mai cunoscuți entomologi-hemipterologi ai vremii sale. Primul, o scrisoare datată 25 Februarie 1942, este expediată din București de Roger Bolomey, care reproduce din memorie date referitoare la viața și activitatea științifică a naturalistului. A doua, o carte poștală, datată 27/9 februarie 1915, este scrisă, de la Zorleni, chiar de A. L. Montandon și se referă la apariția lucrării sale "En marge du Procès de la Science", în 1914 la Geneva.*

Cuvinte cheie: *G. T. Kirileanu, corespondență, A. L. Montandon, R. Bolomey.*

Because we wish this note to be readen by the young people, on their starting career, we think is necessary a short presentation of the great scholar Gheorghe Teodorescu Kirileanu (1872 – 1960). He was born at Holda-Broșteni, on The Golden Bistritza Valley. He studies the elementary school in his native village, and than at Nicolae Nanu School in Broșteni. His schoolmaster Mihai Lupescu from Broșteni who recognized his genius will determine his foster father priest Teodor Ioanovici to send the boy at "Vasile Lupu" High School in Jassy. He was a brilliant pupil. In Jassy he also studied the Faculty of Law graduated in 1900 with „*Magna cum laudae*”. Convinced that he could rise the socio-cultural and economic level of villatic population, the new jurist asked the minister of Justice Titu Maiorescu his transfer from Jassy to the Broșteni Low Court. After minute researches he published a monograph of Broșteni zone, including the Royal Domain. This work was be much appreciated by Nicolae Iorga and other personalities such as the swiss Louis Basset, personal secretary of The King Carol I. From 1909 G. T. Kirileanu works 20 years for the Royal House Library.

He dedicated his entire life to the study of Romanian culture and history. He also was a passionate folklorist.

His correspondence with different personalities comprises about 17,000 letters.

In 1935 he moved to Piatra Neamț, where he built a house for him and his huge library of 30,000 volumes, for the his brother's widow and his four nephews that he helped them complete their studies. In 1956, Kirileanu donated his valuable library to the Piatra Neamț city.

G. T. Kirileanu is honorary member of The Romanian Academy and honorary citizen of Piatra Neamț City. From 1992 The Neamtz County Public Library was named after its founder "G. T. Kirileanu".

To whom it may be interested in literature, art, history etc. from G. T. Kirileanu correspondence and writings we recommend some of his volumes edited by wellknown researchers: *Corespondență* (1977); *G. T. Kirileanu sau viața ca o carte - mărturii inedite* (1985); *Scrieri(I)* 1989 and *Scrieri (II)* 1997.

In 1974, during Corneliu Pandeale's Diploma project preparation Prof. Ioan Tăzlăuanu (1906-1975) from Jassy afforded him «a rich unpublished material about life and scientific activity of A.L. Montandon» (Pandeale, 1974). This material contained also two original documents sent to G. T. Kirileanu. This is the topic of our note: a letter of Roger Bolomey dated February 25th, 1942 sent from Bucharest (Figs 1, 2) and a post card of A. L. Montandon dated 27/9 February 1915, sent from Zorleni (Fig. 3). The original documents were returned to Prof. Tăzlăuanu and the fotocopies were presented in Pandeale's Diploma project.

Some data about life and scientific activity of Arnold Lucien Montandon (1852-1922) were published in many articles, in Romania.

Roger Bolomey¹ writes about personality of the naturalist in his letter to G. T. Kirileanu. We quote contrarily chronologically the original text and the translation of the two documents.

București, 25 februarie 1942

Iubite Doamnă Kirileanu,

Am primit scrisoarea d^{ta} din 12 febr. cu mare întârziere și așa fi vrut să-ți răspund imediat însă am așteptat sosirea lui George de la Azuga crezând că voi avea de la el date mai complete asupra lui Montandon.

Astăzi în fine am putut vorbi cu George care mi-a spus că crede să mai poată găsi printre hârtiile rămase la el la Azuga mare parte din cele ce ceri și că dacă le găsește ți le va trimite direct.

Pentru moment iată ce pot să-ți spun referitor la omul acesta bun prieten al nostru care ne-a lăsat amintiri plăcute din tot timpul cât l-am cunoscut.

Arnold Montandon s-a născut la Besançon în Franța² și a venit în România cam în același timp cu tatăl meu³ intrând în serviciul Casei Regale ca contabil la Broșteni⁴.

A părăsit Broșteni prin anul 1886⁵ fiind mutat ca administrator la Moșia Sinaia de unde a demisionat cam la 1890⁶. Datele exacte privitoare la nașterea sa, la sosirea în România și la funcționarea lui la Casa Regală se vor găsi poate mai precise în hârtiile lui George.

Restul vieții lui putem zice că și l-a irosit în îndeletniciri de tot felul, caracterul său fiind foarte inconstant în chestiuni de afaceri și mai mult o fire de artist⁷. După 2-3 ani ca director al Fabricii Mandrea⁸, s-a ocupat câțiva ani de-a rândul cu fabricarea și comerțul de lichioruri împreună cu fratele său Paul Montandon⁹ care găsise secretul fabricării lichiorului Chartreuse și care venise la București după îndemnul lui Arnold.

După un proces pe care l-a avut cu Pères Chartreuse din Franța pentru uzurpare de firmă, proces pe care l-a pierdut, afacerea cu lichiorurile mergând prost Paul Montandon părăsește România, iar Arnold continuă a se ocupa cu comerțul de vinuri după ce devenise proprietarul unei vii la Filaret. Afacerea lăncezind, situația sa devine precară și este redus să trăiască din vânzarea parcelă cu parcelă a viei lui până când și acest izvor de subzistență dispare și este obligat a intra în serviciul fabricii de buloane de la Cernavoda unde moare cam la vârsta de 76 ani¹⁰ după cât știu, și unde se află mormântul său¹¹.

Partea cu adevărat interesantă din viața acestui om a fost cea pe care și-a închinat-o științelor naturale mai just entomologiei. Încă decând era în serviciul Casei Regale, fie la Broșteni fie la Sinaia, se naște în el pasiunea acestei științe începând prin a colecționa insecte de tot felul¹². Pasiunea sa devine așa de mare «pour les petites bêtes», cum zicea el, încât citește toți autorii de specialitate, începe descrierea speciilor din țară și puțin câte puțin ca autodidact devine unul din entomologii bine cunoscuți în lumea întreagă – în corespondență cu colegii din toate continentele¹³.

Colecțiunile lui de insecte, mai cu seamă cele de Coleoptere¹⁴ ajung de o bogăție recunoscută de muzeele din Londra, Paris și alte mari orașe, care se adresează lui pentru descrierea multor specii necunoscute încă¹⁵.

Muzeul din București a achiziționat de la el una din cele mai frumoase colecții de coleoptere care cred că există și astăzi¹⁶.

De multe ori acest om puțin dotat cu spiritul afacerilor, pe care și l-a neglijat de multe ori din cauza pasiunii lui pentru insecte și pentru natură în general, de multe ori zic, spre sfârșitul vieții lui, acest om a găsit în branșa lui de artist și om de știință, strictul necesar pentru existență, vânzând muzeelor din străinătate specimene rare din colecția sa.

A trăit mult timp retras la Zorleni¹⁷ în tovărășia fratelui meu Costică¹⁸, unde a scris cu multă pasiune „Son testament scientifique” o critică aprigă a teoriilor lui Haeckel, pe care l-a citit personal Reginei –Mame Elisabeta, operă care a rămas sub formă de manuscris în posesia rudelor sale din Franța¹⁹.

El a avut 2 feciori: 1) Marcel²⁰, critic literar binecunoscut în Franța și Germania, care după ce și-a făcut parte din studii în București, a părăsit România spre a se instala în Franța, la Besançon, unde a murit anul trecut după intrarea germanilor în Franța. 2) René²¹ care a părăsit țara cam pe la 1898 ducându-se în America unde a murit destul de tânăr.

Iată toate datele pe care ți le pot trimite din memoria pe care am păstrat-o încă, doresc ca din ele să poți trage notițe de care ai nevoie.

Uitam să-ți spun că la cunoștința noastră dl. George Montandon²² nu este rudă cu Arnold Montandon, și poate însă să se înrudească de departe cu familia din Franța.

Cu toată dragostea

Roger Bolomey

În privința acțiunilor Fabricii de bere nu e nevoie să faci nimic. George îți va spune.

Bucharest, 25th February 1942

Dear Mr. Kirileanu,

I received your letter of February 12th. In delay, I wanted to replay immediately but I waited for George's arrival from Azuga, thinking that I could have more detailed data on Montandon.

Finally today I was able speak with George, who told me that he can find me among the papers left in Azuga, most of them you asked for so, George will send to you if find them.

For the moment, look what I can tell you about this of our good friend who let us pleasant memories, from all the times.

Born in Besançon, France² he arrived in Romania within the same time with my father³, serving The Royal House as accountant in Broșteni⁴.

He left Broșteni about 1886⁵ being named as accountant on Sinaia Royal Estate that quited about 1890⁶. Probably the exact data on his birth, his arrival in Romania and his work for The Royal House can be found among George's papers.

Given his fickleness nature in matter of business, rather an artist, we could say that the rest of his life he wasted in a lot of activities⁷. After two or three years he was the director of „Mandrea Factory”⁸. Together his brother Paul Montandon⁹ who discovered the secret of Chartreuse liqueur, that Arnold invited him in Bucharest, for some years he was involved in the liqueurs trade.

After loosing the trial with Pères Chartreuse from France for firm usurpation, Paul Montandon leaves Romania and Arnold persists in the trade with vine after he became the owner of a vineyard in Filaret.

Given the fact that the business stagnated and the situation became more and more precarious and he is forced to live on selling parcel by parcel the vineyard until this means of subsistence will be exhausted. This will force him to work Cernavoda bolt factory until he died at about 76¹⁰, and as I know here is his grave¹¹.

The real interesting part of life of this man was dedicated to natural science, to be more precisely to entomology.

Since he was in their service of The Royal House both in Broșteni or Sinaia, the passion for collecting any kind of insects is born¹². The passion became so great „pour les petites bêtes” as he used to say, insomuch as he read all specialists and begin to describe the species from the his adoptive country and little by little as autodidact becomes one of the well-known entomologists in the World, being in correspondence with colleagues from all continents¹³.

His insect collections especially the Coleoptera¹⁴ become an acknowledged wealth for London and Paris museums and many other cities, that asked him for identification¹⁵.

The Bucharest Museum acquired one of the most important collection that I think still exists today¹⁶. Many times this man less gifted with gumption, neglected his own business for his passion for insects and generally for nature, by the end of his life found in his branch of scientist and artist the minimum resources for living selling abroad rare specimens from his collection.

He lived inconspicuous a long time in Zorleni¹⁷ in the friendship of my brother Costică¹⁸, where he wrote with passion „*Son testament scientifique*” a caustic critique of Haeckel theories that later personally had read to the Mother the Queen, Elisabeth, a work that remained in manuscript to his relatives in France¹⁹.

He had two sons: 1) Marcel²⁰, a well-known literary critic in France and Germany. After he studied partly in Bucharest he left Romania for Besançon, France where he also died after the German's passage in France. 2) René²¹ who left the country about 1898 for America, where he died rather young.

Here you have are all I remember and I wish you to find the jots you need.

I forgot to mention that our common fellow Mr. George Montandon²² is not related to Arnold Montandon but probably is far related with his family in France.

With all my love,

Roger Bolomey

Concerning the beer Factory shares you do need to do nothing. George will tell you.

*

The second document, „i.e.” the post card dated February 27/9, 1915, sent by A. L. Montandon from Zorleni deals with the philosophical paper *En marge du Procès de la Science*, printed in Geneva 1914

Domniei sale

Domnului G. T. Kirileanu

Administrația Casei M. S. Regele

București

Scumpul meu prieten,

Acuma primesc carta D-tale. și imediat la sosirea mea săptămâna viitoare la București voi merge la Palat spre a da deslucirile despre broșura mea data la tipărit în Elveția de mult, dar din care am primit numai câteva exemplare, până acuma din ediția franceză²³, bine înțeles. Din traducerea germană nu știu unde s-a tipărit, am numai scrisoarea D-lui. Dall'Orso care-mi face cunoscut deja din primăvara anului trecut, că traducerea în limba germană²⁴ era gata.

A bientôt ès tout à vous

A. L. Montandon

Zorleni, 27/9 febr. 1915

NOTES

1. Roger Bolomey of swiss origin a welknown architect from the first decades of 20th century. Together some other famous architects, like G. M. Cantacuzino, D. Marcu, I. Davidescu, T. Rădulescu etc joins the plan for the urban design of Bucharest, in 1935.
2. Born in November 26th 1852 at Besançon. Mother: Marie-Lina Wuilleumier from Besançon. Father: Henri-Louis Montandon, originated from Travers. Arnold-Lucien was swiss citizen. (ANDREI, 2006; ANDREI & PANDELE, 2006). Receiving documentation from Bucharest in 2007, Luc Lienhard published on the internet too the most important data about A. L. Montandon. (Dictionaire historique de la Suisse - <http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/f/F28884.php>).
3. In 1872 he left Besançon before reaching 20 years old and came to Bucharest. In 1873 he fixed his residence în Romania and lived in Bucharest 1872-1877. He was employed clerk in a Financial Society (ANDREI, 2006; ANDREI & PANDELE, op. cit.).
4. In November 1877 A. L. Montandon went in Moldova, at Broșteni. Marcel Montandon, in his notes about his father describes the circumstances when his father became deputy manager of the Royal Domain. After Prince Carol acquired this estate his private secretary Louis Basset originated from Vaud, Switzerland (the same that 30 years later helps G. T. Kirileanu too) offers the job to Montandon (ANDREI, 2006).
5. A. L. Montandon stayed in Bucovina at Broșteni between 1877 and 1883. Here he passed the spring days of youth. He felt well in the wild nature but in the company of the intelligentsia too, in making many exchange of ideas. (ANDREI, 1998; 2006).
6. Montandon left Sinaia, in 1888, at the physicians' advice (ANDREI & PANDELE, op. cit.). Just in *Excursions en Dobroudja* he says: «... ma santé ébranlée par les hivers trop longs et la constante humidité des Carpathes» (MONTANDON, 1887).
7. People as Montandon will dedicate their life for noble purposes wherever they settle in the World, to whom the sacrifice is never too great and who consider that they left behind only a modest contribution. The fifty years lived in this country are years of an intense activity. It was a rich life, with numerous studies on Nature and men, always searching for the Truth, always in the benefit of Science and of his Adoptive Country. Here it is his brief characterization made by Constantin Istrati, in his speech at the Romanian Academy on 11th of April 1905, when Montandon became Foreign corresponding member of the Romanian Academy-Scientific Department: «Montandon is an opened hearted person, a special observer and fighter, a passionate entomologist, a categorical and experienced philo-Romanian» (Analele Academiei, 1904-1905) (ANDREI & PANDELE, op. cit.). As great Nature fond, he was of course of an „artistic nature”. In every Nature's corner he found something to be admired. He observed the colors' harmony, the contrast of forms and the unexpected in a scenery (ANDREI, 2005). To day from the notes of Marcel Montandon we know that his father «aimait dessiner et (...) c'était mis à l'aquarelle (...) était attentif au pittoresque des rues et croquait les marchands ambulants....» «...son premier soin était d'embellir maison et jardin par des plantes grimpantes et des fleurs» «C'est par ces croquis que j'ai un souvenir de la maisonnette où je suis venu au monde» (ANDREI, 2006).
8. In 1893 he was the director of Th. Mandrea Factory in Bucharest and he lived in Viilor Street (ANDREI, 1982; 2000).
9. Paul-Ernest born in 1854 was the second of the fifth children of Henri-Louis Montandon. (MONTANDON, 1913)
10. A. L. Montandon lived 70 years. The exact date of death was March 1st, 1922 and was correctly was published by Sienkiewicz in 1964.
11. From the correspondence of the first author with I. Sienkiewicz, we know that by 60' Sienkiewicz visited Cernavodă, but officialy he could not find the Montandon's grave. Maybe today the acces of some arhives can solve this thing.
12. «Dès son enfance, Montandon a aimé la nature, mais c'est les collaborateurs de la publication parisienne «Feuille des Jeunes Naturalistes» et notamment son fondateur, Ernest Dollfus, qui ont développé son goût pour l'étude des sciences naturelles»as Montandon noted in 1878. (ANDREI, 1982). After «*Souvenirs recuillis par Marcel Montandon de sa Grand-Mère Wuilleumier* (à Champforgeron, été 1917), it was Arnold Montandon's grandfather, Philibert Wuilleumier who «...lui avait inculqué le premier le goût des collections d'histoire naturelle» (ANDREI 2006)
13. Sienkiewicz (op. cit.) speaks about the vast correspondence of Montandon with the specialists, collectors, travellers from entire World. Unfortunately we know only a few of these documents, most of them are unpublished.
14. In the beginings Montandon studied coleopterans, mollusks and plants. «La liste des membres de la Société d'Etudes Scientifiques d'Angers de 1876-77 (1879), inclut Montandon pour trois spécialités: entomologie (Coléoptères), conchyliologie et botanique». (ANDREI, 1982). His mentor in Malacology was Abbot Dupuy (ANDREI & PĂUNESCU, 1982). All his life he collected all he considered interesting, not only ivertebrates but amphibians, reptiles, and even minerals. Then he sent them to the specialists to study them. Not only once these dedicated to Montandon new taxa. Since october 1883, when he still was in Broșteni Montandon makes a donation to the Zoological Museum of Bucharest a nice collection of coleopterans. «Le catalogue proprement-dit contient 63 familles, 725 genres, 2334 espèces avec 5568 exemplaires» (ANDREI & SERAFIM, 1993). Along the years Montandon donated many collections to the Zoological Museum of Bucharest, especially when he worked at the museum as asistant of Antipa (1896-1907). All who were familiar to him or studied his life noted that his greatest passion were heteropterans and he was one of the

greatest hemipterologists of his time. His heteropterans collection was «one of the best collections of the world» (ANTIPA, 1923). In 1964 Sienkiewicz the continuer of Montandon publish a large part of this collection.

15. The fact that the great museums of the World sent insects to Montandon for identification is a thing recorded since 1913 by Frédéric-J. Montandon in his Monograph. Quoted by Sienkiewicz (op. cit.) and then notes and our articles.

16. Probably is the matter of heteropterans not coleopterans. In 1904, 6th of February Montandon's hemipteran-heteropteran collection, as well as his specialized library were bought by the Ministry of Culture and Public Education and donated to the Museum. The collection consisted in 4,950 species represented by 22,552 specimens, 316 of them being type specimens... (MARINESCU & IONESCU, 1985). Comparing these data with those from the original inventory, published by Andrei in 1981, they are identical with a little exception, i.e. 4,954 species reported by Montandon, not 4,950. On the last page Montandon wrote: «Collection et Bibliothèque se trouvent dans une grande armoire vitrée». That it is about just the inventory of the collection bought by the Ministry in 1904 (ANDREI & PANDELE op. cit.). The same as in the case of coleopterans the study of heteropterans goes on in Antipa Museum, having the starting point the Montandon's collection. (STĂNESCU, 2001).

17. Zorleni, locality in Moldova, Tutova district at the time, now Vaslui district.

18. Constantin Bolomey, landowner, the brother of the architect Roger Bolomey. About him Montandon writes: «... un de mes bons amis, grand agriculteur, éleveur de bestiaux et passionné chasseur, en Moldavie, dont la bonne foi, la parfaite exactitude, la profonde sincérité et le respect de la stricte vérité ne sauraient être mis en doute par aucun de ceux qui l'ont connu et ont eu plaisir d'entrer un tant soit peu dans son intimité» (MONTANDON, 1915).

19. In 1997 C. Pandele published at Galați, in the paper *Școala Gălățeană*, an anniversary article for 145 years since Montandon's birth, where he mentioned the correct original title of this manuscript: „Quelques notes sur l'oeuvre d'Ernest Haeckel”. Today, a copy of this manuscript is in the senior author's possession, due to Igor Sienkiewicz's kindness, who got it from Montandon's relatives from France. The paper is not “a caustic critique of Haeckel theories”. ANDREI & PANDELE (op. cit.) show that as Montandon mentioned from the very beginning that the manuscript is an analysis of some aspects and even the disapproval of some Haeckel's ideas, which do not raise at the level of the whole Haeckel's work, „absolutely extraordinary”, as he characterized it. In 2007 Andrei presents the content of this manuscript, together with many quotations. Maybe Roger Bolomey makes a confusion between his work dated „Bucarest, Février-Mars 1915” already quoted and „En marge du Procès de la Science”, Geneva 1914, written at Zorleni. Large references and many fragments from this second paper were published at Galați (PANDELE, 2005).

20. In 1913 F.-J. Montandon recorded exact data about the two sons of Arnold Lucien. In 2006 Andrei brings completions from further documents. Marcel-Henri (1875-1941) was born at 31st of August/12th of September in Bucharest, in Puțul-cu-Plopi Str. He would become man of letters, well-known in France and Germany. He lived many years in Munich. He wrote many books and contributed to many papers and magazines. He was the editor of *Lettres roumaines* chronicle from *Mercure de France*. He was awarded with the first class „Bene Merenti” gold medal and other honours. He had seven children. From some unpublished documents we founded that he died during German occupation in 1941 January 14th at Besançon Saint-Jacques Hospital. He was buried in Besançon, in the family's sepulchre.

21. René-Jules was born at 19th of May 1877 in Bucharest, in St. Constantin Str. He went to America in 1898.

. «...il collabora comme ingénieur au relevé de la carte de la République de Costa-Rica et explora les montagnes du pays en plusieurs régions où aucun Européen n'avait pénétré avant lui. Ensuite entrepreneur de grandes exploitations forestières sur les affluents du Mississipi. Établi enfin comme représentant de commerce à Salt Lake City, Utah.» (MONTANDON, 1913). He had three children. (ANDREI, 2006). Till present no document we know indicate the date of his death.

22. Given that we are not sure who was George Montandon, we make no reference.

23. In his post card Montandon refers to his paper „En marge du Procès de la Science”. «Quand, en juillet 1914, paraît à Genève le livre de A. L. Montandon, dans les éditions de Frédéric Boissonas, chez le maître imprimeur Kundig, livre dédié à la Reine Elizabeth de Roumanie (Carmen Sylva) l'auteur ne pensait pas que peu de temps après la guerre allait éclater. L'ouvrage n'arrivera pas à trouver l'auditoire qu'il visait et en 1936 l'éditeur renvoie à la génération suivante les stocks invendus» (MARINESCU, 2006). References to these may be found in some of our notes and notes (ANDREI, 1993; ANDREI & PANDELE op. cit.; ANDREI, 2007 etc.)

24. The German translation was made by The Queen Elizabeth of Romania.

Even the letter of Roger Bolomey has some inaccuracies, the publishing of the two documents, derived by the kindness of professor I. Tăzlăuanu, we hope to bring to the light unpublished data from G. T. Kirileanu correspondence in reference with one of his great friends Arnold L. Montandon.

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