

1887. Jede Eintragung begann mit dem Datum (z.B. Montag, den 2. August/21. Juli 1886) und brachte danach eine kurze Beschreibung des Wetters oder die Anweisung der Temperatur (Réaumurgrade) und der Luftfeuchtigkeit.

Im allgemeinen waren die Eintragungen sehr kurz gefasst. Man hat den Eindruck, der König wäre ein Chronist aus dem Mittelalter. Über Ereignisse und Personen war Karl I. sehr oft sparsam. Nur selten drückte er seine Bewunderung für die umgebende Natur aus, oder äusserte sich über den einen oder den anderen (z.B. "lieb" oder "grob"). Weit reicher und ausführlicher waren verschiedene Aspekte der Innen- und Aussenpolitik Rumäniens, so über die Beziehungen zu den Nachbarstaaten (Bulgarien, Russland, Serbien), über die Vorbereitung und den Beitritt des Landes zum Dreibund, über die Donaufrage, usw. Recht oft machte der König Eintragungen zu Fragen, die ihm ganz nahe standen: die Gesundheitszustand seiner Gemahlin, Königin Elisabeth (geborene Fürstin von Wied) oder der Bau des neuen Königsschlusses Pelesch zu Sinaia.

Ein Lobwort verdienen die Anmerkungen des Herausgebers, wo viele Einzelheiten über Personen und Ereignisse, die vom König nur kurz angedeutet worden, dem Leser vollkommen verständlich werden.

Man kann nur hoffen, dass in Anbetracht der dokumentarischen Bedeutung des Tagebuchs Karls I. die folgende Bände in je kürzerer Zeit herausgegeben werden.

Ligia Fodor

The Lost Memoir of Queen Marie of Romania

Regina Maria a României, *Capitole târzii din viața mea. Memorii redescoperite*, Vol. IV = continuarea seriei Regina Maria, *Povestea Vieții Mele* (ed. by Diana Mandache; foreword by Dominic Lieven; transl. by Valentin Mandache), Bucharest, Allfa, 2007, xxxiv + 188 p.

Published in 2007 by Allfa publishing house, *Capitole târzii din viața mea. Memorii redescoperite* (originally published under the title *Later Chapters of My Life. The Lost Memoir of Queen Marie of Romania*, Sutton, Great Britain, 2004) written by Diana Mandache completes the Romanian editorial landscape of memoirs and books on the Romanian monarchy.

The first issue was initially printed in Great Britain and enjoyed favourable reviews by "The Sunday Times", "The Spectator", while "Majesty" magazine qualified it as *the book of the month* in its issue of August 2004. In the USA, "Royalty" magazine edited a vast review in the same month qualifying it again as *the book of the month*. "Royal Book News" presented it in enthusiastic terms to the American public interested in the history of European royals. It was also given credit by the Hungarian media, being reviewed by "Hetí Valasz" in its issue of November 4, 2004.

As a PhD in history, Diana Mandache became an expert of European royals, being recognised both in Romania and Great Britain or USA. Other books written by Dr Mandache are: *România, Mittleuropa și Balcanii (Romania, Central Europe and the*

Balkans), *Americans and Queen Marie of Romania*. Her latest book is *Marie of Romania. Images of a Queen*, the first pictorial biography of Queen Marie published in 2007 in Sweden.

The author holds a vast expertise in records research, both in the Romanian and British and American Archives, such as Kent State University Ohio in USA, Reading University in UK, etc.

Queen Marie's manuscript represents a follow-up to her memoirs, *Povestea vieții mele (The Story of My Life)*. The Queen was asked to write this fourth volume due to the success of her previous three books. However, she did not keep the same title as she admits it herself: "*Am considerat însă, că acest al patrulea volum cu greu poate avea același titlu, așa încât am ales pe cel de sus ca fiind cel mai potrivit. Ar mai fi multe, încă, de spus, viața mea e plină de întâmplări și personaje – dar – cu trecerea anilor ea a devenit din ce în ce mai puțin viața mea, și mai mult o implicare a vieților altora, vieți mai tinere dar atât de legate e a mea încât au devenit aproape inseparabile* / However, I consider that I can hardly give the same title to this fourth volume, so I have chosen the above as most suitable. There is still much to tell, my life is still brimful of events and faces – but – as I advance in years, it becomes less and less my own life and ever more involved in other lives, younger lives, but which are so closely bound up with mine as to be inseparable." (p. 3)

This document was discovered after extensive researches conducted in the National Archives of Romania, and as Diana Mandache tells this is "*o relatare a vieții reginei Maria, din 1918 până în 1922 și noile configurații politice văzute de regină ca martor al evenimentelor după sfârșitul războiului. Paginile respective vorbeau despre vizitele neoficiale la Paris și Londra și rolul pe care regina l-a jucat în cadrul Conferinței de Pace, despre conexiunile ei cu familiile regale europene și cea britanică în Europa de după război și ultima întâlnire a Mariei cu mama sa, Ducesa de Saxa-Coburg.* / an account of Queen Marie's life, from 1918 through 1922 and of the new political configurations observed by her as a witness to the events in the aftermath of WW I. Those pages revealed unofficial visits to Paris and London and the role the Queen played at the Peace Conference, her liaisons with the European Royal houses and the British Royal house after the war and the last encounter of Marie with her mother, the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg." (p. xii)

These memoirs were known to exist, a fact mentioned ever since 1934 in the correspondence exchanged by the Queen with Ray Harris Baker, a librarian at the Library of Congress and founder of the collection "Queen Marie" at Kent State University, Ohio. It was not known whether they resisted in time, due to the conflict between the Queen and her son King Carol II, which lasted until her death in 1938, but also due to the political climate in Romania after 1947.

From the introduction we learn that in 1939, the British "Cornhill Magazine" published in several issues fragments of these memoirs, in a slightly different form than nowadays. In 1942, Ray Harris Baker mentioned this manuscript in a booklet entitled *A Collection concerning Marie Queen of Romania and the Romania of 1866 to 1941*. After the war nothing was known about this manuscript, and the merit of Diana Mandache is to have endeavoured to find it not in America, nor in Great Britain, but in Romania, at the

National Archives, among many other documents, and manage to publish it, completing the series of memoirs of Queen Marie.

It is an account of Queen Marie's life from 1918 through 1922 gathering all the events that had occurred and had been described minutely by the author – the Queen –, self-censoring here and there as she acknowledged it herself: "*Dar tocmai acum, când jocul meu este complet, când cu o luciditate aproape crudă îi înțeleg semnificația, când se desfășoară logic și clar în fața ochilor mei, tocmai acum, din cauza altora trebuie să păstrez tăcerea bizuindu-mă pe simțul umorului care m-a însoțit prin atâtea vicisitudini, voi spune numai anumite capitole, lăsând pe seama istoriei să completeze o poveste pe care eu aș fi putut s-o spun cu adevărat / But just when my puzzle is completed, when with almost cruel lucidity, I see the real meaning, the real explanation of my life, when it lies before me most logically, most tragically clear, I must, because of others, keep silent and, holding fast to my sense of humour which has carried me through so many vicissitudes, I shall only relate certain chapters, leaving it to history to complete a story I alone could really have told!*" (p. 4)

The book comprises six chapters, the memoirs of Queen Marie respectively, accompanied by her notes taken during the crowning ceremony of 1922. This is followed by a postscript by Diana Mandache, a selective list of Queen Marie's writings, the genealogical trees of the royal family, notes, a selective bibliography and index, but also photographs, some of them unique from the collection of Diana Mandache, the National Archives, and the National History Museum of Romania.

Later chapters begin with the moment when the Kings of Great Romania returned to Bucharest after a two years refuge in Jassy. The Queen catches and describes hereafter events and characters that re-configured the world in the aftermath of WW I: the Peace Conference of Paris, the Queen's travels to Paris and London, the encounters and discussions with General Berthelot, Marshall Foch, President Poincaré, the Count of Saint-Aulaire, President W. Wilson, Venizelos, Lloyd George, Clémenceau, King George V. At all of the meetings she attended in Paris and London, the Queen pleaded the Romanian cause insisting on the geo-strategic position of the country and on its destiny of barrier against Bolshevik expansion.

Within the new European political configuration, Romania promotes monarchy, King Ferdinand and Queen Marie ensuring a relative political stability, unlike other Balkan States. Nevertheless, Romania underwent an extremely difficult period, and the Queen captured in her memoirs, sometimes most minutely, these problems and the situation of the country after the war: "*În doi ani de ocupație România fusese prădată fără milă; inamicul își înfipsea ghearele peste tot. Măncarea era tot mai rară; ne confruntam din nou cu foametea. Magazinele erau goale, lipseau până și cele mai elementare produse, neputând fi obținute pentru nimic în lume... Între țara noastră și cele aliate se aflau teritoriile învinșilor, cu frontiere nesigure și intoxicate de bolșevism... Noi eram la mijlocul acestui haos total, încercând să rezistăm pe cât puteam de bine și să depășim dificultățile / After two years' occupation, Romania had been mercilessly plundered; the enemy had laid hands upon absolutely everything. Food was becoming scarcer and scarcer; we were once more facing famine. The shops were empty, even the most elementary necessities could not be had for love nor money. No materials for clothes, no shoes, no soap, no medicine! Our oppressors had ruffled everything and*

owing to disastrous communications, nothing came our way: we were as destitute as in time of war. Between our country and those of our allies lay the lands of the defeated, with uncertain frontiers and Bolshevism raging all around us. The old order of things had been overthrown and the new map of Europe had not yet taken definite shape. And we lay between these countries in complete chaos, standing up as well as we could against overwhelming difficulties.” (p. 9) The Queen did not contend herself to be a mere observer, from her memoirs we learn of the actions she undertook with the help of the British and Canadian Red Cross, but also how she urged different people to take part in charity activities. An entire chapter is dedicated to these activities: *Reconstrucție socială și activități de binefacere (Social Reconstruction and Welfare Activities)*.

In the chapter suggestively entitled *Fire rupte (Torn Threads)*, Queen Marie describes her last encounter with her mother, Maria Alexandrovna, the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, daughter of Tsar Alexander II. This encounter illustrates the best the end of a world shattered by war and the newly installed powers: Maria Alexandrovna, who had broken ties with her family in Russia through her British marriage, saw how after the war her family was barbarically destroyed and her country ruined. Queen Marie would write in her memoirs: “*Săraca omenire zdruncinată, nu-și va găsi niciodată alinarea în liniște? Fața plină de lacrimi a mamei, cu obrajii supti și cu ochii aceia a căror sclipire a murit, apare în fața mea, bânduindu-mă în sicare clipă a vieții. Era de nesuportat să știu că nu pot face nimic pentru ea, și că Destinul a despărțit iremediabil drumurile noastre / Poor tormented humanity, would it never find relief in peace? Mama’s tear-stained face, with its sunken cheeks and with those eyes out of which all fire had died, kept rising up before me, haunting every hour of my days. It was unbearable to know that I could do nothing for her, and that Fate had so irrevocably parted our ways.*” (p. 118)

There is a chapter dedicated to Transylvania, in fact to the visit of the two sovereigns during May 23-June 1, 1919. This visit was very important in the context of the Bolshevik coup by Bela Kun in Budapest anticipating the Romanian intervention. The Queen describes in details the places she had passed, the people’s enthusiasm seeing them, the people’s houses, the landscapes, traditions, costumes worn by peasants, and also the meetings with Transylvanian politicians: Iuliu Maniu, Ciceo Pop, Vasile Goldiș.

The crowning in Alba-Iulia of October 15, 1922, is depicted minutely by the Queen, as she was the artisan of the moment; particularly that Romania had not yet known such an event. It was destined to mark the union of all Romanian provinces in the same place where Mihai Viteazul (Michael the Brave) had created the first union in 1600. This was followed by their return to Bucharest and the festivities for the welcoming of the two sovereigns.

Here the Queen ends her memoirs noting: “*Și așa, trecând și încoronarea, am întors o altă pagină, un alt drum se ivește mai departe, supraaglomerat, cu probleme de viață, noi căi, noi pretenții pentru cei ce-l străbat / And so, the coronation over, another road stretched about, teeming with life and human problems, new ways, new demands on all who travel it.*”

Mirela-Daniela Tîrnă