

RELATAREA REGINEI MARIA DESPRE PROIECTUL DE CĂSĂTORIE AL PRINCIPESEI ILEANA CU CONTELE ALEXANDER VON HOCHBERG (IANUARIE - FEBRUARIE 1930)

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QUEEN MARIE'S ACCOUNT OF PRINCESS ILEANA'S INTENDED MARRIAGE TO COUNT ALEXANDER VON HOCHBERG (JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1930)

Abstract

The unpublished diary of Queen Marie for 1930 is containing the relation about the matrimonial project of Princess Ileana (1909 - 1991) with Count Alexander von Hochberg (1905 - 1984). The two young people were attracted one to another and it came to an official engagement, but soon the revelation of the bad reputation of young Hochberg stopped immediately this project, that caused a painful grief to the Princess and her mother.

Cuvinte cheie: dinastie, logodnă princiară, nuntă princiară

Keywords: Dynasty, princiar engagement, princiar wedding

Regina Maria este prea bine cunoscută pentru pasiunea ei de a scrie scrisori și pentru numeroasele relații pe care le avea și le întreținea în lumea aristocratică europeană. Una din cunoștințele ei a fost o celebră figură din vremea anterioară Marelui Război și din epoca interbelică, Mary Theresa Olivia „Daisy” Cornwallis - West (1873 – 1943) una din frumusețile epocii victoriene și edwardiene, provenită dintr-o familie nobilă, dar sărăcită, care însă s-a căsătorit la 8 decembrie 1891, la biserica St. Margret din Westminster,

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cu unul dintre cei mai bogați aristocrați din Reich-ul wilhelmian, prințul Hans Heinrich al XV-lea von Hochberg (1861 - 1938), fiul unui mare moșier și proprietar de mine de cărbuni din partea de est a Germaniei. Acesta, ca atâția alți tineri aristocrați ai vremii, intrase în diplomatie, fusese numit în 1890 secretar la ambasada germană din Londra și așa cunoscuse la unul din balurile strălucitoare din epocă pe și mai strălucitoarea Daisy. Pasiunea l-a făcut să treacă peste diferența de situație materială, s-a căsătorit cu aleasa inimii și a organizat și o nuntă pe care familia miresei nu și-ar fi putut-o permite. Apoi a părăsit cariera diplomatică. Cuplul a avut trei fii: Hans „Hansel” Heinrich al XVII-lea (1900 – 1984), Alexander „Lexel” (1905 – 1984) și Conrad „Bolko” (1910 – 1936). Daisy a continuat să participe la viața mondenă din Anglia și Germania fiind apropiată de cercurile diplomatice ale celor două mari puteri. Căsnicia însă nu a fost fericită deoarece, după război, o mare parte a averii lui Heinrich von Pless a intrat în componența teritoriului Republicii Poloneze care a confiscat-o parțial, cu toate că în 1922 prințul a cerut și a obținut cetățenia poloneză. Tot în acel an, Heinrich și Daisy, aceasta din urmă protagonista multor aventuri extraconjugale, au divorțat, iar Heinrich s-a recăsătorit în 1925 cu o aristocrată spaniolă, Clotilde de Silva y Conzales de Candamo (1898 – 1978). Cei doi au avut doi copii: Beatrice (1929 – 2021) și Conrad (1930 – 1934). Cum era de așteptat, din cauza diferenței de vârstă, nici această căsnicie nu a mers bine, deoarece soția lui s-a îndrăgostit de cel de-al treilea fiu al prințului Heinrich, Bolko. A urmat un divorț răsunător, apoi Bolko și Clotilde s-au căsătorit, au avut la rândul lor doi copii, dar Bolko a murit la scurtă vreme, la 22 iunie 1936.

Cu ce prilej s-a cunoscut principesa Maria cu prințesa Daisy nu se știe încă precis, dar cert este că au rămas în legătură una cu cealaltă și că și-au scris în cursul Marelui Război. Mai târziu, memoriile prințesei Daisy au făcut vâlvă în America și Europa, au fost traduse în limba germană¹. Și regina Maria le-a citit cu interes și a consemnat acest lucru în însemnările scrise în primele zile ale anului 1929²: „...o carte care m-a interesat enorm, a fost o lectură foarte plăcută” (book which interested me immensely, it was a good reading). Mai târziu, în 1935, memoriile prințesei Daisy în varianta germană au ajuns în mâna lui Nicolae Iorga, care a vorbit despre ele în *Revista istorică*, anul al XXI-lea, nr. 1-3, Ianuarie - Martie 1935, și la pagina 87 citează în limba germană, fără traducere, comentariile prințesei Daisy despre o scrisoare primită de la Regina

¹ *Daisy, Princess of Pless, by Herself*, Dutton, New York, 1929, 529 pag., ediția germană, Fürstin von Pless, *Tanz auf dem Vulkan. Erinnerungen an Deutschlands und Englands Schicksalwende*, Dresden, 1930, 2 volume.

² Vezi Regina Maria a României, *Însemnări zilnice 1929*, traducere Georgeta Penelea-Filitti, note Nicolae Pepene, București, Editura Corint, 2021, p. 24, (însemnare din 2 ianuarie 1929).

Maria: „Tot acolo e menționată o scrisoare, din Iulie „1917” (a se ceti 1915), a reginei României către autoare, scrisoare adusă de Bülow”. În traducere românească fragmentul sună așa: „Draga mea regină mi-a scris o scrisoare foarte prietenească. Ce-i drept, vorbește prea puțin despre politică, excepție făcând observația că nu vede lucrurile unilateral și admiră foarte mult organizarea armatei germane. A scris și despre utilizarea gazelor toxice, lucru pe care îl regretă și care nu este *fair* în niciun război (p. 157)”.

Nu este clar cum s-a ajuns la decizia reginei de a-l invita pe al doilea fiu al prințesei Daisy, Alexander „Lexel”, să schieze în România. Cert este că tânărul Lexel a venit la 16 ianuarie, cu o zi înaintea celei în care era așteptat și de aici s-a declanșat un moment special din viața principesei Ileana. Din păcate deocamdată nu știm decât varianta reginei asupra celor întâmplate. Regina a consemnat că tânărul Lexel era „deosebit de înalt, cu un părul blond și tenul perfect, foarte chipeș, dinstins, rasat, seamănă enorm cu mama sa. Are trăsăturile ei și un zâmbet inocent și aiuristic, ceva pur, tinerească. Un nas perfect, ochi frumoși, gene dese, mai închise la culoare decât părul, grațios în mișcările sale suple, zvelt, foarte atrăgător și maniere distinse. Un tânăr chiar atrăgător și adorabil de fapt”. Personajul Rhett Butler din romanul „Pe aripile vântului” de Margaret Mitchell a spus despre un tânăr că este „prea frumos ca să-i fie de folos.” Se pare că așa s-ar putea spune și despre tânărul conte de Hochberg.

Principesa Ileana îi ține companie la schi și ceea ce era de presupus se întâmplă. Cei doi se îndrăgostesc repede și hotărăsc să-și unească destinele.

Cu 15 ani în urmă, mai precis la începutul lui august 1916, regina Maria declarase unei ziariste canadiene aflate în trecere prin București că în privința căsătoriei, vrea ca odraslele ei să urmeze chemarea inimii. Interviuul a apărut în *Bukarester Tagblatt*³. Se va fi gândit vreodată regina la aceste cuvinte în fața deciziilor pe care le-au luat în acest sens fiul ei mai mare, Carol, fiica cea mare, Elisabeta, sau fiul ei Nicolae? Acum, în fața pasiunii declarate a Ilenei, regina acceptă ideea căsătoriei celor doi, cu toate că nu sunt *ebenbürtig* (în limba germană: egali în rang din punct de vedere al dreptului nobiliar). Vestea unei logodne apare în ziare la 28 ianuarie, așadar la 12 zile după sosirea contelui von Hochberg în România. A doua zi regina scrie „Am aranjat logodna pentru mâine”. Aceasta are loc într-adevăr la 30 ianuarie și a participat, firește, și premierul Iuliu Maniu, care se arată rezervat. Părerile reginei, foarte exigentă în privința aspectului fizic a celor cu care intra în legătură, despre viitorul ei

³ Sorin Cristescu, *Interviuul profetic oferit de regina Maria unei jurnaliste canadiene la începutul lunii august 1916*, în *Centenarul României Mari - Volum omagial*, Ramona Mocanu (coordonator), Iași, Editura Junimea, 2018, pp. 45 - 49.

ginere sunt foarte bune, sau tot mai bune. În acea zi a scris că tânărul este „lipsit de stângăcii, are un comportament foarte aristocratic și maniere excelente și un mod distins de a se comporta în societate care îi stă bine. Toată lumea pare sincer încântată că Ileana noastră va continua să locuiască la noi”. Așadar nu-și va urma soțul în Polonia. La 31 ianuarie regina îl tachinează pe contele Lexel întrebându-l dacă mai vrea să rămână în România, după ce a văzut starea groaznică a drumului care duce de la București la palatul de la Scroviștea, la 35 km nord de capitală – regina vorbește despre o ”cabană mică albastră” unde tinerii urmează să-și petreacă prima parte a lunii de miere. Călătoria de nuntă urmează să aibă loc în Cipru și principesa Ileana ia legătura cu guvernatorul britanic de acolo la 3 februarie. Nici gând ca starea drumurilor să-l sperie pe Lexel. Mai mult, chiar dacă este catolic, nu ezită să afirme că dacă i se vor face greutăți de natură religioasă se va face numaidecât protestant. La 1 februarie, tânărului conte i se organizează sărbătorirea zilei de naștere, împlinise 25 de ani și era în pragul unei schimbări decisive în viața sa.

Ciudat i se pare reginei însă faptul că deși a înștiințat-o pe sora ei, prințesa Beatrice „Baby”, în Spania, despre proiectata nuntă n-a primit niciun răspuns. Reginei Eugenia „Ena”, soția regelui Alfonso al XIII-lea al Spaniei, nu are curaj să-i scrie, în condițiile în care anul trecut, în aprilie mai fusese oaspetele familiei regale spaniole, împreună cu Ileana, și refuzase proiectul de căsătorie cu Alfonsito, fiul mai mare al regelui, tânăr marcat de probleme ereditare de sănătate. Regina Spaniei îi telegrafiază totuși și o felicită, dar încă niciun cuvânt nu parvine de la sora Beatrice.

La 6 februarie, spre bucuria reginei, sosește în capitală cealaltă fiică a ei, care purta același nume ca și ea - în popor i se spunea prințesa Mărioara - și care din 1922 era soția regelui Alexandru al Iugoslaviei și avea deja trei fii. La 10 februarie sosește tatăl contelui Lexel, bătrânul Heinrich von Pless, despre care regina scrie că nu-l mai văzuse de 20 de ani. Regina îl descrie ca pe un „*très Grand Seigneur et homme du monde*, amabil. Se simte la el că a trăit mereu *pour son bon plaisir*”. Ca să-i țină companie bătrânului domn la vizitarea minelor de la Slănic, este chemat fostul ministru plenipotențiar al Rusiei la București, Poklevski Koziell (1868 -1937).

La 17 februarie, Lexel von Hochberg pleacă din București – tatăl său plecase pe 12. Regina este cuprinsă de negre presimțiri: „Lexel pleacă în dimineața asta. Ileana este atât de încântată de el că mă face să tremur. O temere oribilă s-a cubărit în fundul inimii mele. Și a ajuns să-mi fie atât de drag băiatul. S-a încadrat incredibil de bine în viața fiecăruia, toate planurile pe care le fac sunt atât de frumoase, așa de potrivite cu Ileana și cu dorințele mele încât mi-e frică. În ultima vreme au fost numai tragedii în viața noastră. Vom fi oare în stare să trăim aieva acest vis?”. Chiar în acea zi însă temerile cele mai

negre s-au adeverit. Barbu Știrbei este cel care îi spune despre scandalul în care fusese implicat cu ceva timp în urmă tânărul Hochberg și despre faptul că Iuliu Maniu se află în posesia documentelor. Cu inima împietrită regina acceptă fatalitatea, logodna trebuie ruptă, iar fiicei ei îi va explica situația făcând aluzie la un caz asemănător care avusese loc probabil cu ani în urmă.

La 20 februarie, regina și fiica ei pleacă într-o călătorie mai lungă în Egipt și aici ne oprim relatarea. Durerea acestui, să-i zicem ghinion sentimental, le va urmări multă vreme pe amândouă, dar pe termen mai lung nu va afecta destinul prințesei. După cum se știe, prințesa Ileana se va căsători la 26 iulie 1931, la castelul Peleş, cu Anton von Habsburg cu care va avea șase copii. Alexander „Lexel” a participat la cel de-al Doilea Război Mondial unde a luptat în rândurile Forțelor armate poloneze din Vest. După război s-a stabilit în Spania (insula Mallorca) unde a și murit la 22 februarie 1984. Nu se va căsători niciodată.

Să dăm cuvântul însemnărilor reginei Maria, un fragment din documentul păstrat la Arhivele Naționale (cifrele în paranteză pătrată reprezintă numărul filei din jurnal):

„[140] Thursday January 16th 1930 Cotroceni

A quieter day. Lovely weather quite mild, less sunny in the morning than yesterday but gradually becoming nice and sunny, so that I was actually able to have a good ride in the afternoon on Montana, taking my usual round and to my joy, finding the ground excellent. It was a joyful feeling to be in the saddle again and did me all the good in the world.

Had as audience Stelian Popescu⁴, who, he too came to tell me that the country was going down and that I alone could become its savior, and afterwards the Serbian Military attaché⁵ and his wife who are leaving. Lunch with my children as we have given over the big saloon and dining room for the ball of this evening, a costume ball.

⁴ Stelian Popescu (1874 - 1954) was a nationalist Romanian journalist. He was the Member of the Parliament many times. He was Minister of Justice in the Governments led by Take Ionescu, Barbu Știrbey and Ion I. C. Brătianu. He ran the *Universul* newspaper for 1915-1945, transforming it into one of the most readable newspapers of the interwar period. Being a right-wing journalist, the newspaper remained influenced by his ideas, which attracted many adversities, especially from the social-democratic or socialist newspapers, such as the newspaper *The Truth* (*Adevărul*). He criticized the governments of the time, came into conflict with King Carol II of Romania, and at the beginning of the 40s he unconditionally supported Marshal Ion Antonescu. In 1944 Stelian Popescu took refuge in Switzerland, the newspaper's management remaining in the hands of one of his sons-in-law, Ion Lugoșianu (1890 - 1957).

⁵ Colonel Al. Stoyanovich, cf. *Almanach de Gotha*, 1930, p. 1282.

Barbo⁶ came at 6. We talked over my yesterday audiences and what was to follow upon my conversations with each. Daisy Pless⁷, son (second son) Graf Hochberg⁸ arrived unexpectedly this evening although we were only expecting him tomorrow. We invited him for some skiing. He is exceedingly tall with perfectly golden hair and complexion, good looking, distinguished, *racé* and enormously like his mother. Has her features and [141] just that something a little innocently foolish about the mouth, something candid, young. A perfect nose, nice eyes, thick lashes, darker than his hair, graceful in his movement supple, slim, *quite* attractive and beautiful manner. Quite an attractive a loveable young fellow in fact.

We were sorry that he had arrived so unawares as we had prepared everything to receive him properly tomorrow, Mr. Denize⁹ was to fetch him at the station, etc.

⁶ Barbu Alexandru Știrbei (1872 - 1946). He was the son of Prince Alexandru Știrbei and his wife Princess Maria Ghika-Comănești, and grandson of another Barbu Dimitrie Știrbei (born Bibescu, adopted Știrbei), who was Prince of Wallachia and died in 1869. His real significance in Romanian history arises from his role as close confidant of Queen Marie, who was herself a highly influential figure in Romanian government circles prior to the accession of her son King Carol II to the throne in 1930.

⁷ Mary Olivia Hochberg von Pless (*née* Cornwallis-West; 1873 - 1943, also known as Princess Daisy), was a noted society beauty in the Edwardian period. Daisy married on 8 December 1891 Hans Heinrich XV von Hochberg Prince von Pless (1861 - 1938), the owner of large estates and coal mines in Silesia (now in Poland) which brought the Hochbergs enormous fortune. They had three sons. They divorced on 12 December 1922. Her extravagant lifestyle coupled with disastrous events and political and family scandals were tasty morsels for the international press.

⁸ Alexander „Lexel” von Hochberg (b. 1 February 1905 in London - d. 22 February 1984, in Mallorca) was a German aristocrat and military officer. In 1984, he briefly served as the head of the Hochberg von Pless princely family. He had been a Polish citizen following the annexation of Upper Silesia and Pless by Poland in 1921. Following the confiscation by the Polish State of 65% of the family's assets and his father's death in 1938 he emigrated to Paris, where he surprisingly later joined the Polish Army in the West in the latter stages of the war. He served with distinction in North Africa and in Italy. In January 1930 he was engaged to Princess Ileana, but he was accused of homosexuality and the engagement had to be broken.

⁹ Gaetan Denize (1867 – 14 May 1930), preceptor of Prince Nicolas and then private secretary of Queen Marie (1916 – 1930) he had an important role in constructions of Balcic, he was surnamed „St. Balcic”.

The ball, a costume ball was great fun. Ileana¹⁰ was dressed in her Spanish clothes and looked very attractive, Sitta¹¹ wore Greek peasant dress, a beautiful costume. I had simply put on my big diadem with a thick black veil forming cloak over a simple black velvet dress, it was becoming and dignified.

Lisabetha¹² who has darked her complexion, put on black hair appeared as an Indian Princess with a group of other dressed alike with Alexandre Crețianu¹³ as Raja. Nicky¹⁴ the young beast had simply stuck on a long fair beard and wore black spectacles, he was loathsome, but entirely unrecognizable, horrid beyond words!

¹⁰ Princess Ileana of Romania, also known as Mother Alexandra (5 January 1909 – 21 January 1991), was the youngest daughter of King Ferdinand I of Romania and his consort, Queen Marie of Romania. In Sinaia on 26 July 1931, Ileana married the Archduke Anton of Austria, Prince of Tuscany (1901 - 1987). This marriage was encouraged by Ileana's brother, King Carol II, who was jealous of Ileana's popularity in Romania and wanted to get her out of the country. On 29 May 1954, Ileana and Anton officially divorced and she married secondly in Newton, Massachusetts, on 20 June 1954, to Dr. Stefan Nikolas Issarescu (1906 – 2002). In 1961, Ileana entered the Orthodox Monastery of the Protection of the Mother of God, in Bussy-en-Othe, France. Her second marriage ended in divorce in 1965. On her tonsuring as a monastic, in 1967, Sister Ileana was given the name Mother Alexandra. She moved back to the United States and founded the *Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration* in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, the first English language Orthodox monastery in North America.

¹¹ Princess Helen of Greece and Denmark (2 May 1896 – 28 November 1982), married on 10 March 1921 at Bucharest the future King Carol II, was a Queen Mother of Romania during the reign of her son King Michael I (born 25 October 1921 – 5 December 2017, effective reign 1940 –1947). She was noted for her humanitarian efforts to save Romanian Jews during World War II, which led to her being awarded with the honorary title of *Righteous Among the Nations* in 1993.

¹² Elisabeth of Romania (30 September/12 October 1894 – 14 November 1956) was daughter of Crown Pair Ferdinand and Maria. Married to Prince George, the heir to the Greek throne on 27 February 1921, in Bucharest, she felt no passion for him and underwent the political turmoil in her adopted country after World War I. When her husband became king of Greece in 1922 as King George II, Elisabeth was involved in assisting refugees who arrived to Athens after the disaster of the Greco-Turkish War. The rise of the revolutionary climate, however, affected her health and with great relief she left the Kingdom of Greece with her husband in December 1923. The royal couple then settled in Bucharest, and King George was deposed on 25 March 1924. In Romania, Elisabeth and George II's relationship deteriorated and the couple divorced in 1935. Very close to her brother, King Carol II, the princess amassed an important fortune, partly due to financial advice given by her lover, the banker Alexandru Scanavi. After the death of her mother, Queen Marie, in 1938 and the dethronement of Carol II in 1940, Elisabeth took up the role of First Lady of Romania. At the end of World War II, she established close links with the Romanian Communist Party and openly conspired against her nephew, the young King Michael I, earning the nickname of „Red Aunt” of the sovereign. However, her communist links did not prevent her from being expelled from the country when the People's Republic of Romania was proclaimed on 30 December 1947. Exiled, the princess moved to Switzerland and then to Cannes, in southern France. She had a romantic relationship with Marc Favrat, a would-be artist almost thirty years younger, whom she finally adopted just

There were some nice even very pretty costumes, Nadèje Știrbei (mică)¹⁵ get the first prize in her second Empire [142] costume, crinoline, black velvet and lace. Perfect, and quite the epoch. There were many other excellent costumes. Even old Nini¹⁶ has dressed up in „the old Woman who lived in a shoe”¹⁷ – very good.

The atmosphere was gay, happy, amused. Young Hochberg, Lexel as he is called in his family, came in his skiing get up, slim handsome, young, exceedingly aristocratic. Sitta was enchanted with him. A loveable youngster. His mother’s great favorite.

It was a pleasant cheerful evening, I staid till about one o’clock.

Friday January 17th 1930 Cotroceni

Hoped to take our nice young guest out for a ride this morning, but it froze slightly in the morning and at 11, as there was no sun the ground was still hard and slippery so it had to be given up.

Decidedly we like Lexel, I am afraid Ileana will very easily like him too much. Personally I have no ambition for her except that she should be happy with a man worthy of her, a man who can be a companion as well as a lover, a man of good birth, sufficient money [143] if possible independent. Lexel seems

before her death in 1956.

¹³ Alexandru Cretzianu (1895 – 1979) was a Romanian diplomat, son of George Cretzianu and Zoia Al. Știrbey. Diplomatic posts in London, Rome, Berne and Geneva and then General Secretary in Minister for Foreign Affaires (1939 – 1941). He resigned as a protest for maintaining of the alliance with Nazi-Germany after the liberation of Bessarabia.

¹⁴ Prince Nicholas of Romania (5/18 August 1903 – 9 June 1978) was the younger brother of Carol, heir apparent, who renounced his rights of succession on 12 December 1925. When Ferdinand died in 1927, he was succeeded as king by Carol’s five-year-old son, Michael; given Michael’s youth, a regency council had to be formed (20 July), and Prince Nicholas was forced to abandon his career in the British Royal Navy (January 1926) in order to return home to serve on the council, alongside Gheorghe Buzdugan and Patriarch Miron Cristea.

¹⁵ Nadèje Știrbei (1876 - 1955) was the daughter of Prince George G. Bibescu (1834 - 1902) and countess Marie-Henriette-Valentine de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay (1839 - 1914) and sister of George-Valentin Bibescu (1880 - 1941). In 1895 she married in Geneva Barbu Alexandru Știrbei (1872 - 1946). The couple had four daughters: Maria (1896 - 1990), Nadejda (1897 - 1994), Eliza (1898 - 1987) and Ecaterina (1902 - 1946). For details see Oana Marinache, *Reședințele Știrbey din București și Buftea*, București, Editura ACS, 2013, and by the same author *Nadeja Știrbey, Jurnal de prințesă (1916-1919)*, București, Editura Istoria Artei, 2014.

¹⁶ Nini Fifield was the governess of the daughters of Queen Marie.

¹⁷ „There was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” is a popular English language nursery rhyme, with a Roud Folk Song Index number of 19132. Debates over its meaning and origin have largely centered on attempts to match the old woman with historical female figures who have had large families, although King George II (1683–1760) has also been proposed as the rhyme’s subject.

to be all this, but would the highbrows consider him sufficiently *ebenbürtig* [of equal birth]? Of course, today it has no more the importance of yesterday, even in Germany, but the Hohenzollerns for instance how do they look upon the Pless. I must not run Ileana into anything which would afterwards put her into an inferior position. She is too royal to stand that properly. I talked it over with her, she is so out of the way reasonable. She *knows* this would be the sort of man she *could* marry, aristocratic to his finger-tips, young, handsome, perfect breeding and manners though neither pompous or stiff, also no *laissez aller*, and a deep love for his mother, on good even loving terms with his elder brother and fond of his father who is divorced from his mother and married to a woman younger as his eldest son. They were almost the richest family in Germany, they are still very rich but of course the obligations in Germany have become overwhelming.

But we must not anticipate too much although I must be prepared to know what I want to do if the two young creatures get fond of each other. The Country of course would like a brilliant match, but I am tired of thrones [144] and there is such love between Ileana and I that of all things we would best like a marriage which would leave her free to live here as long as she likes and to go on with her work. I told her however to go steady so as not to get us into trouble. I know that it would be Daisy's (his mother's) supremest [sic!] desire to see this beloved son of her heart win a wife like Ileana.

After a family lunch we went all together to see a Buster Keaton¹⁸ film, a delightful one, B.K. is irresistible.

Supper with our guest and early to bed.

Saturday January 18th 1930 Cotroceni

Hoped against hope that that riding would be possible, but it froze slightly in the night and a sort of sleety rain began to fall making the ground slippery and impossible for horses. Received the Egyptian Minister¹⁹ very excited about our projected visit to Egypt. Lunch with Sitta. All my family likes Lexel very much. Ileana piloted him about all the morning taking him to see old churches, her institutions, etc... delighted to have a young understanding, attractive male at her side [145] with whom is quite proper to

¹⁸ Joseph Frank Keaton (1895 – 1966) known professionally as Buster Keaton, was an American actor, comedian, film director, producer, screenwriter, and stunt performer. He is best known for his silent films, in which his trademark was physical comedy with a consistently stoic, deadpan expression that earned him the nickname „The Great Stone Face”.

¹⁹ Abdel Asim Rached Pacha (since 26 January 1928), cf. *Almanach de Gotha*, 1929, p. 1280.

run about (accompanied with Mimarr²⁰, of course). Ileana what I called: rammed Romania in every form down his throat.

Had Rubinstein²¹ to play, a certain amount of people invited, especially music lovers. He played wonderfully. He is tremendously temperamental man, *joie de vivre* sweats out of his pores. He is over fond of modern music, but plays Chopin, Beethoven, Liszt and Bach to perfection, but one sees that he slides off into modern music as soon as he can as it's more entirely the expression of his bubbling vitality.

Supper with Lisabetha. Her house looked too cozy for words. After supper I parted with Ileana and young Hochberg for a week as they are going off skiing to Predeal with the Education Physique. I shall probably go and see them next Sunday.

Nicky also likes Lexel very much. In fact he is approved of by everybody in the house.

Sunday January 19th 1930 Cotroceni

Felt lonely without any children in the house. No Ileana, Nicky at Snagov. Went to the symphony concert Georgescu²² is here again. Sitta, Michal and H. Perticari²³ [146] for lunch. Weather dull and chilly but telegram from Ileana that beautiful snow and sunshine at Predeal. She will, if nothing happens, certainly enjoy it. I did not try to go out, it was not tempting. Asked the Patriarch²⁴ to come and see me. It was necessary that we should talk together, things are going to much *a la derive*. He was reasonable, but that was all, I shuddered at the incompetency in what regards knowledge of the job he has been given. Certainly Brătianu²⁵ counted upon living a long time to do the ruling or really he would not have settled upon this way of leading an always somewhat chaotic undisciplined country. They don't know *how* to rule, none of

²⁰ Old English nurse in service of the Crown Prince and Royal family.

²¹ Arthur Rubinstein (1887 – 1982) was a Polish-American classical pianist. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest pianists of all time.

²² George Georgescu (1887 – 1964) was a Romanian conductor. The moving force behind the Bucharest Philharmonic Orchestra for decades beginning shortly after World War I, a protégé of Artur Nikisch and a close associate of George Enescu, he received honors from the French and communist Romanian governments and lived to make recordings in the stereo era.

²³ Helene Perticari (1865 – 1951), daughter of Doctor Carol Davila, wife of General Perticari (1852 – 1919) military preceptor of Prince Carol.

²⁴ Patriarch Miron Cristea (1868 – 1939), first patriarch of Romania (since 4 February 1925), the other member of the High Regency. He will be Prime Minister imposed by King Carol II (10 February 1938 – 6 March 1939).

²⁵ Vintilă I. C. Brătianu (16 September 1867 – 22 December 1930), was brother of Ion I. C. Brătianu, economist and politician, president of National Liberal Party (November 1927 – December 1930), Prime Minister (24 November 1927 – 11 November 1928).

the three, they are weak, ignorant, have no trust in each other, none can teach the other anything and actually they have to do with a wily and at the same time incompetent prime-minister who little by little has taken all the power into his hands reducing the Regency to a parody of itself, entirely at his disposition. Maniu²⁶ having no contact with the other parties and being a liberated slave rules with the hatred of all that was so that the country is little by little going to the devil because no one is master any more, no one puts in a veto to what is being done, nobody knows his job, it is like a lot of vicious children [147] trying to run a precious and complicated toy which they have taken to pieces and do not know how to put together again. I confess I was appalled and wondered by whom and how they could be helped. I impressed upon him for all I was worth to show some signs of authority, to tread on Maniu's toes a little, give him a rude reminder that he is not omnipotent that there are other factors in this country besides him. I was horrified to hear the way they had signed *decrets* each thinking the other was responsible, not one of three having understood what they signed. Horrible! Oh! Uncle Charles²⁷ how you could turn round and round in your grave. And here I am hands tied, and can do hardly anything to help. The Holy Brother said that Maniu must still destroy himself a little more before one can get rid of him. „But what if he destroys the country at the same time” I cried. „Were it not braver and finer to save them both! Force Maniu to listen to reason, to go slow, to realize that there are other in the country besides himself and his party. If you do not open your eyes, take the reins in hand you will find that the opposition will do so *without* your cooperation, and in what sort of position will you find yourselves than, and who will be there to save the whole [148] wobbling situation? You must bring about a reaction, a *détente* before it is too late, before every particle of power is torn from your hands”.

He understood to a certain degree. But he does not know how to do it, nor does Nicky, and the third is Maniu's creature²⁸. What they need is a real school-master, they have not even a bureau, a little private *conseille* to help them. I looked into chaos and shuddered!

²⁶ Iuliu Maniu (1873 – 1953) was a Romanian politician. A leader of the National Party of Transylvania and Banat before and after World War I, he served as Prime Minister of Romania for three terms during 1928 – 1933, and, with Ion Mihalache (1882 – 1963), co-founded the National Peasants' Party.

²⁷ King Carol I (1839 – 1914) Prince of Romania since 10/22 May 1866, then King (10 May 1881 – 27 September/10 October 1914).

²⁸ Constantin Sărățeanu (1862 – 1935) was a Romanian jurist, counselor at the Supreme Court (1918 – 1929). Proposed by Maniu, Sărățeanu succeeded to Gh. Buzdugan as Regent. After „Restoration” in June 1930, he retired out of politics.

Took a coup of soup all by myself and my thoughts were not specially gay!

Monday January 20th 1930 Cotroceni

Audiences. General Gorski²⁹ about aviation. Of course the state of our aviation is deplorable. Col. Filiti who is on his feet again after a slow recovery from the kick of a horse which broke his leg, both bones, very badly. Mme Iancu Reuss³⁰ the Spiritiste Feministe and Mme General Tell, wife of old Tell³¹ but still a young woman anyhow looks very young and is very *royaliste*. Lunch alone with Nicky who was in good spirits and with whom I could talk some sense. I do all I can to buck him up for his duty, but it is uphill work. Took a walk with Irene³², feeling that I need exercise.

[149] Later Barbo. He too is doing what he can to help them on all sides especially for a *rapprochement* but because he was our adviser officially he has been put aside by the Regence and he is the only one who could really help them to keep steady and to help them work out a real consequent plan of action. But as Barbo says himself *je ne suis pas sympathique* except to those who really know me. There is some too retiring, I should say too proud about Barbo, he makes people feel small and they don't like it, but he is always to *bon conseil* and what is more, help those he advises to carry out his advice.

Cella³³, Sitta and Lisabetha to supper and afterwards to the concert of the celebrated nigger-singer Johnson. He sings especially spirituals. I was just a little disappointed in his voice, but then the Athénée is such a bad place for getting into real contact with the artist.

²⁹ Alexandru Gorski (1875 - ?) was a Romanian general, Chief of Staff of the Romanian Army (8 May – 1 October 1923).

³⁰ Correctly: Eugenia de Reuss Ianculescu (11 March 1866 – 29 December 1938) was a Romanian teacher, writer, and women's rights activist. She was one of the founders of the Women's League, the first feminist organization in Romania, and later was the founder of the League for Romanian Women's Rights and Duties. Fighting for women's suffrage for fifty years, she wrote novels, delivered lectures, cultivated support of politicians and presented legislative petitions, earning in the year of her death, the right for Romanian women to participate in general elections.

³¹ Wife of general Alexandru Tell (1846 – January 1925), third son of Al. Christian Tell (1808 – 1884).

³² Irina Procopiu (16/28 May 1872 – 1954), daughter of General Anton Berindei (1838 – 1899) and Maria Brăiloiu (1846 – 1927), married 1894 the architect Louis Blanc (1860 – 1903), they had two daughters, Colette (1898 – 1972) and Marie-Louise. Then she married the journalist Ion Procopiu (1862 – 1917). They had a daughter, Lila, and they lived in a villa on Dumbrava Roșie street. She was one of the ladies in waiting of Queen Marie (1914 – 1938). See her diary edited by Georgeta Penelea-Filitti, *Pagini de jurnal (1891 – 1950)*, București, Editura Polirom, 2016. See also *Almanach de Gotha*, 1915, p. 1065.

³³ Cella Delavrancea (1887 – 1991) was a Romanian pianist, writer and teacher of piano, one of the intimate friends of Queen Marie.

Tuesday January 21st 1930 Cotroceni

Have nearly finished my *Spanish Pictures* have been a long time about it, descriptions are difficult to do. Same sort of weather. Received Panaitescu³⁴ [150] curious, unsatisfactory, unsatisfied man. I am always inclined to quarrel with him, but all the same we are friends, but his stuffy calm exasperates me. A depressing fellow to have to do with but he is not afraid of telling you disagreeable truths. He has been translating my article on His Majesty. I could not get out from him if he considers it good or not, he only said that he had discovered that I was not as optimistic as he thought. I asked if it was because the article was in fact, sad? He agreed that the article was sad, then with a certain bitterness I exclaimed „but do you consider that his life was not as a whole sad almost tragic; and my life although I live it as though it were glorious, happy, full of satisfaction, do you find no element of tragedy in my life?”. He hung his head and gave no answer. One would need hours to drag anything *real* out him. It is all boxed up. I think he has real sympathy and admiration for me, but to be with him is like being at one's own funeral!

I then received General Berg, one of the Russian refugees. He was full of emotions to see me again, we had seen a good deal of each other at Iassy. Their patience and non complaining is astonishing. He lives upon 6,000 Lei a month, and was a rich spoilt man in his youth brought up at *Corps de Pages*³⁵. [151] There was an abyss of sadness in him, but absolute resignation. „We Russians had to be punished...”. So many say this. And they humbly and uncomplainingly accept their fate. Strange being, something grand and terrible about it, *navrant*³⁶, heart-breaking – „we deserve it...”.

³⁴ Emil Panaitescu (1885 – 1958) was a Romanian historian and archeologist, director of the Romanian Academy in Rome (1929 – 1940).

³⁵ The Page Corps (French: *Corps des Pages*) was a military academy in Imperial Russia, which prepared sons of the nobility and of senior officers for military service. The Page Corps was founded in 1759 in Saint Petersburg as a school for teaching and training pages and chamber pages. In light of the need for properly trained officers for the Guard units, the Page Corps was reorganized in 1802 into an educational establishment similar to cadet schools. It would accept the sons of the hereditary nobility of Russian lands, and the sons of at least Lieutenant, Generals/Vice Admirals or grandsons of full Generals/Admirals. In 1802, the curriculum of the Page Corps was also changed, thereafter based on the ideals of the Order of Saint John. In 1810, the school was moved to the palace of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also known as Vorontsov Palace. It continued at this location in Saint Petersburg for over one hundred years, until the Russian Revolution in 1917 when it was finally closed in June of the same year on the orders of Alexander Kerensky, War Minister of the Provisional Government.

³⁶ French: distressing.

For lunch General Petala³⁷, General Rudeanu³⁸ and wife³⁹, H. Peticari and Ballif⁴⁰.

Dresses to try on – questions to settle with Athanasescu⁴¹. Good news that the Hungarian „Optanți” question is at last settled and to our satisfaction. This is a decided success for the Government. I told Athanasescu to write to Maniu and to express my pleasure at the good news. I

Tea with Symki⁴² to meet my old friend Hamilton and a very nice and clever American who came here with his wife once before a certain Calvin-Brown⁴³. An Europeanised American with clear views and a knowledge of European politics. We had animated interesting conversations. He is closely in touch with Hoover⁴⁴, has world-wide view about the general economical situation, about politics, progress, knows how to deduct and foresee. A keen pleasant face like Admiral Beatty⁴⁵ in thinner. An interesting sympathetic man.

³⁷ Nicolae Petala (1869 - 1947) was Romanian general commander of division in Unity War, general inspector of the Army and Military Teaching 1925.

³⁸ Vasile Rudeanu (1871 - 1965) was Romanian general and diplomat, known for his Memories.

³⁹ Tatiana Lahovary, daughter of Alexandru Emanuel Lahovary (1855 – 1950), sister of Collete Plagino, was the second wife of General Rudeanu, who divorced in 1903 from his first wife, Eufrosina Sutz.

⁴⁰ Ernest Ballif (1871 – 1945) was a Romanian general Scottish origin, aide de camp of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, Marshal of the Royal Court and administrator of the Crown Domain, see also Narcisa Maria Mitu, *Aspects from the Activity of the Adjutant General Ernest Ballif, Administrator of the Crown Domain*, în *Anuarul Institutului de Cercetări Socio-Umane „C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor”*, Nr. XVIII, 2017, pp. 53 – 62.

⁴¹ Gheorghe Atanasescu, (1880 – 1966), ADC of King Ferdinand, military attaché in Germany (1924 – 1926), accompanied Queen Marie in her visit in United States (1926), and then ADC of the Queen (1926 – 1930); promoted brigadier general (1928), during the reign of Carol II was commander of the 2nd Army Corps and General Inspector, on 18th august 1941 Army Corps General; see his *Jurnal*, București, Vremea Publishing House, 2018.

⁴² Simona Lahovari „Symki” (1881 - 1936), daughter of Alexandru N. Lahovari (1841 - 1897), her mother was Simka, born Ghermani (1858 - 1915). For 30 years „Symki” was lady-in-waiting of the Crown Princess, then Queen Marie, having much influence upon her. Mentioned in *Almanach de Gotha*, 1915, p. 1065 and in the following years. Memorialist.

⁴³ Brown, John Calvin, *Punctul de vedere al unui american asupra problemelor economice din România* [București], Societatea „Amicii SUA”, f.a. [1932] mentioned in Bibliography of Gh. Buzatu, *A History of Romanian Oil*, vol. I, București, Editura Mica Valahie, 2011.

⁴⁴ Herbert Clark Hoover (1874 – 1964) was an American politician, businessman, and engineer, who served as the 31st president of the United States from 1929 to 1933. A member of the Republican Party, he held office during the onset of the Great Depression. Before serving as president, Hoover led the Commission for Relief in Belgium, served as the director of the U.S. Food Administration, and served as the third U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

⁴⁵ David Richard Beatty, 1st Earl Beatty (1871 – 1936), was a British Royal Navy officer. After serving in the Mahdist War and then the response to the Boxer Rebellion, he commanded the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, a tactically indecisive

I [152] told him to come to me tomorrow so that we can have another talk. There are one or two things he said and asked that I want to go more closely into. I like him. I liked him also the first time and the good impression he gave me then was accentuated this time.

For supper Elise Brătianu⁴⁶ and Cella with an excellent film, afterwards some invites Sitta was to have come but was feeling ill with her injections, the film was specially ordered for her as she admires Hetta [sic!] Garbo⁴⁷. The film was most exciting and attractive. Elise Br. has a splendid laugh at comic films.

Wednesday January 22nd 1930 Cotroceni

A little colder for once beautiful sunshine which makes one feel quite differently. Did a lot of writing and then gave up my morning to hair washing, hair cutting and waving. For once insisted that I should be left in peace like any other human being so as to be able without undue haste give up the morning to what I had in hand.

Hiott⁴⁸ for lunch, much talk and discussions, also with Nicky who came late. A run in the garden and at 4. I had Mr. Calvin Brown for a long practical talk [153] of how Romania could be helped. He wants to help, he is a specialist upon European politics, conditions, and a financial expert. He interest in Romania is principally the interest of one whose job it is to help difficult, difficult situations and sees a country disastrously run when it is a country of such huge possibilities. It is almost an artist's interest so to say. He is in close

engagement after which his aggressive approach was contrasted with the caution of his commander Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. He is remembered for his comment at Jutland that „There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today”, after two of his ships exploded. Later in the war he succeeded Jellicoe as Commander in Chief of the Grand Fleet, in which capacity he received the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet at the end of the war. He then followed Jellicoe's path a second time, serving as First Sea Lord from 1919 - a position that Beatty held longer (7 years 9 months) than any predecessor.

⁴⁶ Elisa Brătianu (1870 – 1957) sister of Barbu Știrbei, married first to Al. Marghiloman whom she divorced and then married in 1907 to Ion I. C. Brătianu.

⁴⁷ Greta Garbo (born Greta Lovisa Gustafsson; 1905 – 1990) was a Swedish-American actress. Generally regarded as one of the greatest screen actresses of all time, Garbo was known for her melancholic, somber persona due to her many portrayals of tragic characters in her films and for her subtle and understated performances.

⁴⁸ Constantin Hiott or Hiottu, Romanian diplomat, plenipotentiary minister in Prague (1 August 1920 – 1 March 1925). Close to the Royal Family, Minister of the Palace after Nicolae Mișu's dead, co-father-in-law to Barbu Știrbei, will have the mission to bring the quit claim of Prince Carol (28 December 1925). His son, Constantin Dinu Hiott, will be legation secretary in London (1928), legation counselor in Warsaw (1934), charge d'affaires in Bratislava (1939), delegat in the Romanian Comission for negotiations with hungarian delegation at Turnu Severin (17 August 1940), plenipotentiary minister in Vichy (15 October 1940 – 1 October 1944).

touch to Hoover and his official permission of his government to try and help, encourage so as to make commerce go and finances, export, import, etc... there is also of course plenty of money behind him. America is sympathetic to this government because of its financial policy. The eternal changes are what harm us⁴⁹ and especially our own screaming against ourselves, the insecurity we represent. But his question to me is: is this government worth helping, shall we try to make it a power which, because it brings prosperity, will be able to continue governing in peace and force its opponents to have to go one better when it wants to overthrow it. It was an immensely interesting talk, but the question remained with me: is this a government worthwhile making stable? Will it ever really learn to govern according to our real need? Honestly without hate, cleanly? [154] we could have gone on much longer but I had called Panaitescu for 5 o'clock to read me the translation of my article which is excellent. But what a strange, heavy fellow, so impenetrable and unsatisfactory in spite of that underground of usefulness and worthiness I have recognized in him. But he does not develop himself harmoniously.

Sitta came for supper, better today. Her auto injections are making her suffer. I afterwards went to Maruca⁵⁰ and had a two nice hours with her.

Thursday January 23rd 1930 Cotroceni

Beautiful hoar-frost but no sun. Did a good lot of writing and finally received Reverend Malden and had a good talk about Michal as he comes together with Mr. Hill and it [is] the only human being which the unfortunate young man can get together with to talk to. It is not going to be made easy to him as he seldom sees Sitta and does not know on what ground he is treading. However Sitta when refusing to let him come to the cinema herself suggested that if I wanted to talk to him that I should send for him, which I shall do.

⁴⁹ In the original: The eternal changes is what harms us...

⁵⁰ Maruca Cantacuzino born Rosetti-Tescanu (1879 – 1968) lady in waiting of Queen Marie. Married when 18 years old to Mihail Cantacuzino, son of Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino „the Nabob” (1832 – 1913). Her husband died in a car crash (28 August 1928) and she became known as mistress of the philosopher Nae Ionescu (1890 – 1940), who soon left her for Cella Delavrancea. In December 1937 she married to her old admirer, George Enescu, and they will remain together till his death in 1955.

[155] A big lunch with Maniu, Madgearu⁵¹ and wife, Cihoski⁵² and wife⁵³ and old Mavrocordato⁵⁴ and wife⁵⁵. An animated meal, seated between Caesar⁵⁶ and Virgil but much more to say to Virgil who is very easy to talk to, and much more interesting. Maniu was very inquisitive about young Hohenberg and wanted to know if he was to deny the rumors that Ileana was going to marry him. I gave evasive answers. We discussed our journey and having seen this morning Dr. Gianu⁵⁷ who had been to Jerusalem and who had told me about *la misère* in which our monks and nuns⁵⁸ lived there, I made a little propaganda so as to be able to bring our holy community there some gift when I visit Jerusalem. I drew attention to the significance of Romania at Jerusalem for the Orthodox Church now that the Russians have become Bolsheviks, Romania stands at the head of the Eastern Church. We discussed several other questions and were sweet to each other.

⁵¹ Virgil Madgearu (1882 – 27 November 1940) was a Romanian economist sociologist, and left-wing politician, prominent member and main theorist of the Peasants' Party and of its successor, the National Peasants' Party (PNȚ). He had an important activity as an essayist and journalist, being for long time a member on the editorial board for the influential *Viața Românească*. Madgearu was a prominent opponent of the National Liberal Party for much of his life, developing an original theory that challenged both Liberal tenets and Marxian economics, proposing measures to enhance the political and economic roles of Romanian peasants. In his later years, he was involved in anti-fascist causes, and was one of several politicians to be assassinated by the Iron Guard.

⁵² Henric Cihoski (1871 – 1950) was a Romanian general commander of the 10th Division during the Unity War, General Inspector of the Army (since 29 October 1927) he was Minister of War (10 November 1928 – 5 April 1930). Arrested by the communist regime on 5/6 May 1950, he died soon in the Sighet prison.

⁵³ Sofie Ferhat, daughter of a rich Armenian family from Focșani, married to general Cihoski, and they had a daughter, the sculptoress Henriette Cihoski (1911 – 1999) married to the sculptor Stefan Véron (descendent of C.A. Rosetti), and a son, Alexandru. See Mihai Sorin Rădulescu, *Loji masonice din Ploiești și Tulcea în ultimele decenii ale veacului al XIX-lea. Contribuții documentare din Arhivele franceze*, nota 93, în *Revista Arhivelor*, nr. 11, 2014, p. 111.

⁵⁴ Edgar Mavrocordat (5/17 January 1857 – 19 April 1934) was a Romanian diplomat, Minister plenipotentiary in Belgrade (1899 – 1905), the Hague (1905 – 1911) and Vienna (19 November 1911 – 27 August 1916, where he presented the war declaration of Romania) and Tokio (1921 – 1924).

⁵⁵ In 1885 Edgar Mavrocordat married to Irene Moret de Blaramberg (1865 – 1955), daughter of Constantin Moret de Blaramberg (1838 – 1886), ADC of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and then of Carol I, and Maria Băleanu (1844 – 1886).

⁵⁶ Nickname for Iuliu Maniu.

⁵⁷ Amza Jianu (1882 – 1961) was a famous Romanian surgeon, at that time professor of Clinic Surgery at the Colțea Hospital.

⁵⁸ The monastic Romanian settlement in Jerusalem was founded in 1906 – 1912 due to the efforts of Teodor Burada (1839 – 1923), a Romanian folklorist, ethnographer and musicologist and member of the Romanian Academy (elected in 1878, the first musician to achieve this position), but a church will be build much later in 1935 -1938.

Had a big children's party with films, for Mickey. It was a great success. Howls, screams, gurgles of joy. Received a little letter from Ileana, she and the beautiful young man have actually already gone and become engaged! Oh, dear! Ileana is certainly not slow! And now I shall have to face the music. Everybody [156] seemed sympathetic to this idea ever so much more than I dared hope, but the fact remains! He is not quite *ebenbürtig*, and I don't want to run Ileana into anything she might regret. But of course it *was* my ideal that she should marry someone who would follow her, rather than she him. But I am a bit bewildered. I must be allowed a pause of thought. But they are both so eager, so ripe for being happy. She so dearly wants a man to love! Dear Ileana, of course it moves me rather tremendously.

Nicky likes the idea. After supper Barbo, alas much worrying news.

Friday January 24th 1930 Cotroceni

This morning early Helen Cole, formerly Chamberlain arrived with her daughter Marioara (called Marion). Her father twenty years ago had to do with the petroleum. There were two daughters and a son. I remained through the years in correspondence with this one. Having come with her two daughters for a year to Europe, the youngest being in school, I asked [157] her to come and see me and here they are very delighted. Helen is a gentle white haired woman, no good looks but charm. I spent my morning between them and my writing. We lunched *en famille*, the two guests *en plus*. Sitta came without Michal who has a stomach upset. Although it turned into a fine afternoon had no time to go out. Had Mr. Wilson⁵⁹, the American minister to tea with my friends and afterwards saw Mr. Puot⁶⁰ the French Minister who had bad news to bring me which he had received from the French Ambassador at Moscow⁶¹ who warns him that the Soviet government has bad intentions against Bessarabia, and as with this government all police arrangements have been *relâchés* and order less

⁵⁹ Charles S. Wilson, American Minister in Sofia (1919 ad interim, appointed 5 December 1921 till 1928) and then in Bucharest, appointed: 23 June 1928, presented credential: 13 October 1928, left post on 2 August 1933.

⁶⁰ Correctly: Gabriel Puaux (May 19, 1883 in Paris – January 1, 1970 in Kitzbühel, Austria) was a French diplomat and politician. He was the French minister in Tunisia from 1907 to 1912. After the WWI he became the Secretary General of the French government from 1919 to 1922. He served as the French ambassador in Lithuania, then in Romania (28 June 1928 – June 1933), and Austria. Puaux was also the High Commissioner of the Levant from October 22, 1938 till 1940. In June 1943, he became the resident general of France in Morocco and held that position until March 1946. He was elected as a member of the French Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques in 1951. For Romania see *Almanach de Gotha*, 1929, p. 1280, and 1935, p. 1237.

⁶¹ Jean Herbert (1878 – 1960) was a French journalist and diplomat, first French ambassador at Moscow (1924 - 1931).

strictly observed he considers it dangerous and is obliged to warn us, but he feels that with Maniu and his, he is preaching to deaf ears. This news of course upset me and I am wondering how to help and how to impress the distressingly incompetent men who are at the helm. Even if the warning were exaggerated how dare one not take every possible armed precaution. I must try and impress Nicky, but shall I succeed?

Received happy news that Mignon⁶² wants to come and see us [158] this indeed will be a joy. The day ended with Chaliapin⁶³ in Boris Gudenov⁶⁴. What an artist! What a voice, what a superlative actor. This indeed is art and it's very highest. And the mellowness of his voice absolutely enraptures you. The dignity, poignancy of his acting, his huge imposing figure, his wonderful get up, indeed he is unique. He may be getting old, I believe he drinks but he is superb, incomparable.

All day long I kept thinking of my Ileana, up in the snows with her young man.

Saturday January 25th 1930 Cotroceni

Have nearly finished writing my *Spanish Pictures*, have been a long time about them, but I find descriptive writing about places difficult, especially as these particular little articles were written as a sort of thanks to Spain and I could not therefore put any humorous or critical touches into them which would have been more amusing to do.

⁶² Princess Maria of Romania (28 December 1899/9 January 1900 – 22 June 1961), was the Queen of Yugoslavia as the wife of King Alexander I from 1922 until his assassination in 1934. She was the mother of Peter II of Yugoslavia, the last king of Yugoslavia. Her citizenship was revoked and her property confiscated by the Yugoslavian Communist regime in 1947, but she was „rehabilitated” in 2014.

⁶³ Feodor Ivanovich Chaliapin (1/13 February 1873, in Kasan – 12 April 1938, in Paris) was a Russian opera singer. Possessing a deep and expressive bass voice, he enjoyed an important international career at major opera houses. He left Soviet Russia in 1921 and never returned, but without adopting an anti-soviet attitude.

⁶⁴ Correctly: *Boris Godunov*, the only completed opera by Modest Mussorgsky (1839 –1881), premiere on 27 January in St. Petersburg. Its subjects are the Russian ruler Boris Godunov, who reigned as Tsar (1598 to 1605) during the Time of Troubles, and his nemesis, the False Dmitriy (reigned 1605 to 1606). The Russian-language libretto was written by the composer, and is based on the 1825 drama *Boris Godunov* by Aleksandr Pushkin, and, in the Revised Version of 1872, on Nikolay Karamzin's *History of the Russian State*.

Audience with Lily Falcoianu⁶⁵ and then a sitting of the general committee of the *Sinistrés* society at which Sitta and Nicky also appeared as they are the vice-presidents.

[159] For lunch Barbo and Calvin Brown. I wanted to bring Brown together with Nicky and Barbo. He may be of help to our country, but he must not rush off in a wrong direction. If he takes the habit of talking with Barbo he will have a safety valve. He was as fascinatingly interesting as last time and I got Barbo and him to go off together.

Then took my guests first to the stables to see the horses then for a drive all through the different quarters of Bucharest to show Helen how the town had developed.

Tea together and a look at all the Balcic photographs. Helen looks so happy to be here that she is even a little dazed.

Family supper and afterwards to a cinema to see the *Divine lady*⁶⁶, the story of Nelson and Lady Hamilton. A lovely film but less dramatic than the German version with Conrad Veidt⁶⁷ and that beautiful German actress we saw a few years ago. I did not think this, Lady Hamilton was quite pretty enough. Nelson and Hamilton were both perfect.

Left for Predeal.

Have been worrying a great deal about that. Puaux told me yesterday, have told Nicky and also Samsonovitch⁶⁸ who was at our meeting this morning.

⁶⁵ Alexandrina (Lili) Fălcoianu (1869 – 1951) led an important charitable work for the wounded during the Unity War in Bucharest. Accused by Sabina Cantacuzino as favorable to the Germans.

⁶⁶ *The Divine Lady* is a 1929 American Vitaphone sound film with a synchronized musical score, sound effects, and some synchronized singing, but no spoken dialogue. It stars Corinne Griffith (1894 – 1979) and tells the story of the love affair between Admiral Horatio Nelson (Victor Varconi) and Emma Hamilton. It featured the theme song „Lady Divine”, with lyrics by Richard Kountz and music by Nathaniel Shilkret, which became a popular hit in 1929.

⁶⁷ Hans Walter Conrad Veidt (1893 – 1943) was a German actor best remembered for his roles in films such as *Different from the Others* (1919), *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920), and *The Man who Laughs* (1928). After a successful career in German silent films, where he was one of the best-paid stars of UFA, he and his new Jewish wife Ilona Prager were forced to leave Germany in 1933 after the Nazis came to power. The couple settled in Britain, where he took British citizenship in 1939. He appeared in many British films, including *The Thief of Bagdad* (1940), before emigrating to the United States around 1941, which led to him being cast as Major Strasser in *Casablanca* (1942). Film about Nelson was *Lady Hamilton* (1921), directed by Richard Oswald (1880 – 1963) starring in the main role Julianne „Liane” Haid (1895–2000).

⁶⁸ Nicolae Samsonovici (1877 – 1950), was a Romanian general during World War I, later Minister of National Defense (20 October 1932 – 13 January 1933). Arrested by the communist regime on 5/6 May 1950 and incarcerated in the Sighet prison where he died in September the same year.

[160] Sunday January 26th 1930 Predeal

A day full of sunshine and young happiness. At 8 my two very shy but ecstatic children appeared hand in hand, rather sleepish but radiant holding each other by hand and looking into each other's eyes as though they had found something wonderful there. A more attractive delightful couple could not be imagined. He tall, fair with that inconceivable golden hair, she dark, with sparkling blue eyes, both in skiing costumes. „I must say that was quick”, I said. „It was immediate”, declared the *amoureux* and their eyes sparkled and he leaned his intensely fair hair against her dark one. So we talked and our hearts sang within us, incorrigible old child that I am myself I was able to enter into every degree of their enchantment and we made plans big and small, practical and absurd setting anything that might be disagreeable, or difficult, or shadow-casting aside and simply rejoiced over a happiness which seems so suddenly to have fallen from the skies. And wonder of wonders, he is quite ready to be adopted, to become my son and remain with us instead of carrying her off to a far country. They will [161] to be happy and useful hear and I will have a loveable son. He will certainly treat me better than my own and perhaps even be a help to Nicky, as a brother will do him good. Lexel looks very young, his face is absurdly like a flower, Kala in quality, but he has lived a man's life. The wonder of it all is that though of his age, without pomposity and old prejudices he leans to the good old things which are important to us, he does not want to be a loafer and live solely for amusement, but wants to help and devote himself to some cause. Why not through Ileana to ours?

Of course it all sounds too good to be true, for the moment it is complete Fool's Paradise, one cannot help wondering whence will come the shadow that will darken our little fairy-story, for indeed this boy most incredibly incarnates *le Prince Charmant Făt Frumos* with his sunny smile, his golden hair, his long slim, little figure, his honest eyes and snow-white teeth.

And everybody who sees them beam, they spread their own smiles upon every other face. They are so irresistible, gloriously, impudently young and loveable both of them. Sunshine seems to radiate from them [162] all sunshine and laughter and although he is not of royal house, he is of tremendously highborn and gloriously blue-blooded, sufficiently wealthy with an immensely wealthy father, a loving mother who was one of the beauties of her time and who has given him her face and her English blood. The evident enchantment of it all seems to immediately light everybody up, and although I made no announcement of the fact today and allowed not official congratulations our joy pervaded all those around us.

And what a setting sun, snow and glorious blue sky, the whole of Predeal is festive excitement to receive me, soldiers peasants and the whole *Culture Physique* school, swarms of young people of both sexes on skis. A sledge sent from Sinaia with our old Surugiu in his brightest get up, four black horses all hung with bells and gay ribbons. Off we flew to see some ski exercises and then on, down the valley of the new Bran road, peasants galloping in from us, behind us our young man and several other blue-clad skiers bond on to our sledge by a long cord, being pulled along behind us: Savel, Manolescu, Mavriki and Pulungianu⁶⁹ the head instructor of the whole school. Sunshine, snow, sparkling like fields of diamonds and such sunshine! [163] We visited on our way back the large orphanage at the entry of the valley were received by volleys of song in a huge hall, everybody beaming, some refreshment was given us then back to our train in Predeal.

The only one little shadow was that Ileana's inside was not quite well so she herself dared not get onto her skis.

Lunch at the casino with the whole culture physique who sang whilst they ate. We were placed on a sort of little stage above the rest of the room. They drank my health thanking me for my visit. I longed to announce the good news then and there but resisted as I shall have to do it correctly on their return to town which will be Friday early. But everybody felt what was going on and it was as though Ileana and Lexel were ascending out of all that youth of which Ileana is leader, as a sort of ideal type of what straight-living youth should be. Two clean young beings, handsome, healthy, a promise for the future, a sort of symbol of perfect youth standing before youth, their young leader rising out of their midst, accomplishing her fate, but one of them still, her happiness not separating her from them, but on the contrary binding her to them with renewed and strengthened bonds.

[164] Of course Cella who was with us, was in ecstasies, the two Americans „were too thrilled for words”, Helen Cole besides full of emotions because she was back in the places so full for her of girlish remembrances of 20 years ago.

⁶⁹ Emil Pălăngeanu (1891 – 1953) was a Romanian general. Together with his brother Nicolae, was one of the first officers trained as skiers. Together with Victor Bădulescu he founded on 17 June 1923 the National Office for Physical Education, was president of the Romanian Athletics Federation (1933 – 1935 and 1939 – 1940). He was promoted colonel on 10 May 1934 and general on 10 May 1941. On 23 December 1941 his was appointed as president of the *Romanian Youth Labor* (Munca Tineretului Român – MTR) a paramilitary movement present in Romania during 1941 -1944. Arrested by the communist regime on 15 august 1952, he died after few months of detention in January 1953.

After lunch we drove in a motor to Sinaia where I inspected the house and hot-houses, at 5 I went off by train towards Bucharest and my radiant pair back by motor to Predeal.

Arrived here for late supper and afterwards played some favorite records on my Columbia to entertain Cella and my guests.

It was certainly an emotional but happy day.

Monday January 27th 1930 Cotroceni

Am still full of the glow of yesterday, but of course I have also to face certain practical questions. Lexel not being according to the Gotha calendar absolutely *ebenbürtig*, it will always be a certain difficulty about his position on official occasions. One will not want to humiliate him nor Ileana. We talked it over with Barbo whom I saw in the afternoon. We are going to find out what happens to Iolanda⁷⁰'s husband at the Italian court, though Lexel is of a much bigger family than Iolanda's husband, but one must avoid all those things which might humiliate a very royal Princess, a King's daughter in a small country. It would and will of course much depend upon Lexel himself. Barbo although delighted at the child's happiness of course thinks more quickly than we do of the difficulties inherent to every royal match not absolutely royal. And when asked what do I really know about Lexel I had to admit: nothing at all except his mother's love for him, his delightful personality and that his family is one of the richest and most *hupée*⁷¹ in Germany, that his mother was English and one of the beauties of her time, a little *légere* and rather silly but exceedingly kind, now almost an invalid. Pless and Daisy divorced after the war and he married a little Spanish woman⁷² the age of his eldest son of a little younger. Lexel has an elder brother⁷³ and a younger, he loves his elder brother, but is not so fond of the younger who rather sides with the step-mother. Lexel

⁷⁰ Princess Yolanda of Savoy (1901 – 1986) was the eldest daughter of King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy. On 9 April 1923 at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, Yolanda married Giorgio Carlo Calvi, Conte di Bergolo (1887 – February 1977), a cavalry officer, promoted general in 1940. They had five children.

⁷¹ French: a well-off family.

⁷² On 25 January 1925 in London Hans Heinrich XV von Hochberg married secondly Clotilde de Silva y González de Candamo (1898 – 1978), a Spanish noblewoman and daughter of the 10th Marquis de Arcicóllar. They had a daughter and a son. This marriage also ended in a divorce in 1934 because of the family scandal – the seduction of the youngest son of Hans Heinrich XV – Bolko Conrad Frederick (1910 – 1936) – by his stepmother. They subsequently married and had two children, Hedwig Maria and Bolko Constantine, the only grandchildren of Hans Heinrich XV.

⁷³ Hans Heinrich XVII William Albert Edward (1900 – 1984), Prince of Pless, Count von Hochberg and Baron of Fürstenstein. Married twice but had no issue.

loves his mother more than his father. The elder brother manages the fortune and the father was too much of a spendthrift. The elder brother's wife is very ill, but they are very devoted to each other. They are one of the older families in Germany, but the fact [166] remains that they are not royal. This in our days means less, but it all the same creates certain difficulties and occasional heartburns. Of course I would never want my dear Ileana to be humiliated, nor to force him into the position of merely being the Princess' husband.

Audiences: Madame Gen. Grigorescu⁷⁴ (the first wife⁷⁵) a most sympathetic woman, and Madame Dobrovici with her over intelligent children.

Lunch alone with my Americans as Nicky is still at Snagov. They were delighted to have long interesting talks about a hundred and one topics. I then went to Sitta to tell her the news. She genuinely rejoice with us, thinks I have done wisely in allowing this marriage although it is not brilliant in what concerns position. It has all other guarantees of happiness so it would have been a sin not to allow Ileana to have him, even of one day (?) she might have made a much more brilliant *partie*. Of course Ileana was cut out for a Queen she would have done it wonderfully, but Fate brought this beautiful young fellow into our lives, *et voilà!*

My household is exultant because everybody fell straight ways in love with Lexel, from Nini to Härter upwards.

Supper with Lisabetha and Georgie with my guests. Lisabetha rejoices. She is in good humor and is funny. A talk with Ileana on the telephone, they will be back Thursday morning.

[167] Tuesday January 28th 1930 Cotroceni

News of engagement is in papers. Great excitement. In general great joy except certain reserve as they, that is to say many would have wanted something more royal. His not being a Prince only Count of course is a disappointment. But the young man himself will be my excuse for allowing her to have him. Of course I never meant things to go quite so quickly. Ileana has a

⁷⁴ Eremia Grigorescu (1863 - 1919) was a Romanian artillery officer later general during the Unity War, commander of the First Army in the battle of Mărășești since 30 July/12 August 1917. After the battle Grigorescu was surnamed the „hero of Mărășești”. Later he was Minister of War in the Constantin Coandă cabinet (October – November 1918). While stationed in Onești during the war, Grigorescu met Elena Negropontes (1879 – 1953), whom he married in 1918 after divorcing his first wife. Their son, Dan Ulise Grigorescu (20 November 1917 – 19 February 1990), became a noted artist and photographer in Paris.

⁷⁵ Elena Arapu, a Mathematics student who later became the first female graduate of the University of Iași, and pursued a teaching career, was married with general Eremia Grigorescu from 1886 till 1918. They had five children. The most important is the first of them Traian (1887 – 1969) an artillery officer later general.

rather quick way of doing things. I hope to God I have done the right thing, would it have been fair to stop her, waiting for God knows what difficulty combined much more royal marriage? Those near me approve though Zwidy⁷⁶ deplores the want of R[oyal] H[ouse]. I too would have preferred it, *mais peut-on tout avoir?*

Everybody came of course rushing in on me, has difficulties about getting ready for my audiences: Garoflid⁷⁷ and a certain Moldovianu who had to do with the Romanians in America. He was quite interesting and of course had a task for me to accomplish connected with those questions. Shall see what I can do.

Big lunch with Mihalache⁷⁸ and wife, Junian⁷⁹ and wife, Samsonovich and wife. My American friends [168] are awfully happy here. I have given them my autobiography to read and they are deeply interested and amused. Received a nice Russian Gretchen⁸⁰ sent me who has do with Ducky's affairs. A huge tall man, a Russian, looks very clever. He told me some interesting thing I shall not confine to these pages as they are too secret.

⁷⁶ Eugen Zwiedinek (1886 – 1956) was a Romanian officer later general, ADC of Queen Marie. During the Second World War he was a member in the Ion Antonescu's government under-Secretary of State, Romanization, Colonization and Education. Imprisoned by the communist regime.

⁷⁷ Constantin Garoflid (1872 – 1943) was a Romanian politician, minister in Marghiloman and Averescu governments. On March 10th 1929 he founded the Liga Agrară Party.

⁷⁸ Ion Mihalache (1882 – 1963) was a Romanian agrarian politician, the founder and leader of the Peasants' Party (PȚ) and a main figure of its successor, the National Peasants' Party (PNȚ). He was minister in the governments 1931 – 1933.

⁷⁹ Grigore Iunian (1882 – 1940) was a Romanian left-wing politician and lawyer. A member of the National Liberal Party (PNL) during the 1910s, he rallied with the Peasants' Party (PȚ) after Unity War, and followed it into the National Peasants' Party (PNȚ). After the PȚ merged with Iuliu Maniu's Romanian National Party (1926), Iunian became vice president of the newly created PNȚ. Beginning in November 1928, when the PNȚ came to power, Iunian was Minister of Justice in the Maniu and Gheorghe Mironescu cabinets (10 November 1928 - 19 November 1930). He left PNȚ in 1932 to create in November the Radical Peasants' Party (PȚR), over which he presided until his death.

⁸⁰ Gretchen von Raven, friend of the Queen from her youth.

Took my guests to the Unknown Soldier's grave⁸¹. The little flame is always burning, it is well kept.

Sent for Mr. Hill, Michal's English tutor to have a talk. I liked him. He is a lonely young fellow with a hard job for him. I told him to hang on and win that though hard, it was a tremendously interesting job, that alas I was quite unable to help him openly as I am kept apart from Mickey's education, that I found it fair to keep my hands off, is his mother preferred doing it all by herself, but being in the country so long, there were certain things I did know better, besides I would give a little *joie de vivre* which is missing at the Chaussée Palace. I'd help him all I could, but I must use tact.

Saw Haiduc who came about a new invention for the eyes, Dr. Fischer who has demonstrated a new method, very interesting.

A short half an hour with my guests showing them [169] the Bran photographs.

Sitta for supper and afterwards with her to the Regina Maria Theatre⁸² to see a strangely fascinating piece taken from the Russian: *The Man who gets slapped*. A weird play, excellently acted. Only a Russian or a Norwegian could

⁸¹ The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Romanian: *Mormântul Soldatului Necunoscut*) is a monument located in Bucharest. Built by the sculptor Wilhelm Becker it is dedicated to the soldiers who died while fighting for Romania in the Unity War. It is one of many such national tombs. The order no. 567/1 May 1923 of the Ministry of War ruled that a war orphan in the 1st grade of a military school would choose the coffin of the Unknown Soldier. The military schools in Iași, Craiova, Chișinău and Dealu Monastery submitted the names of their best students who met the respective criteria. Out of the four candidates the war orphan Amilcar Săndulescu, a 12 year student at the „Dimitrie Sturdza” Military High School in Craiova whose father died on the front in 1917, was selected. Ten unidentified soldiers who died in the main battles of the war were exhumed and laid in oak coffins, doubled with zinc, inside the „Assumption of Mary” Church in Mărășești. On May 14, 1923, during the solemn ceremony organized at Mărășești, Amilcar Săndulescu knelt in front of the fourth coffin and said: „*This is my father*”. After the Unknown Soldier had been chosen, the other nine coffins were buried with military honors in the Heroes' Cemetery in Mărășești. On May 15, 1923, the Unknown Soldier's coffin, wrapped in a Romanian flag, was placed on board of a special train to Bucharest, where it was waited for by the King Ferdinand, state officials and an honor guard. Laid on a cannon carriage pulled by eight horses, the coffin was transported in a long procession to the „Mihai Vodă” Church and remained there for two more days, so the people could pay their last respects. On May 17, 1923 (which was also Heroes' Day/Ascension Day), the coffin was buried inside a crypt in Carol Park with full military honors in the presence of the Royal family, the Government, members of Parliament, and numerous members of the public. The stone slab of the crypt read: „*Here lies at rest happily unto the Lord the Unknown Soldier, who sacrificed his life for the unity of the Romanian people. On his bones lies the land of united Romania. 1916–1919*”.

⁸² Teatrul Regina Maria was initially Sala de Tir și Gimnastică from Piața Senatului. In the 50s was the building of the Operetta Theater. It was demolished in 1986. Today there are the twins blocks Sitracó (the one from the right).

write such a strange play. Sitta was deeply interested. Had a telephone talk with Ileana asking instructions. Told them they could announce it also there and give people the pleasure to congratulate them. There are sure to be two currents one of approval one of disapproval, one shall have to stand firm against the last mentioned.

Wednesday January 29th 1930 Cotroceni

I live in a sort of concentrated excitement. On the whole the news is received with joy. Of course a few voices are raised as croakers because he is not R[oyal] H[ouse]. I too would have preferred that he should be, but one cannot have everything. He does not carry her off! He is young good-looking, rich, independent, blue blooded, intelligent, *bien élevé, homme du monde*. My heart sings within me, in great hope. Of course I tremble also [169 verso] when one is very happy one cannot be anything but afraid of something coming as a bomb to destroy our joy. I do not see what that bomb might be, but every joy generally casts its shadow, the only shadow for the moment is poor Sitta. But anyhow we have not upon our consciences that we arranged this. It just fell from the skies.

Great excitement around me, my ladies gentlemen, servants, friends.

I have arranged for tomorrow the official *fiançaille*⁸³.

Only one audience today, Mic's⁸⁴ sister Negulescu and daughter who is a fervent admirer of Ileana and also a lover of Balcic.

Hiott for lunch. All sorts of things to talk over. After lunch took my Americans for a drive. Back for tea offered to all my poor colony of Russians with Chaliapin as guest, not to sing but simply as *home du monde*. I also had invited Mr. Calvin Brown and had another talk with him. He is as keen as ever and is working his way amongst the right people. He would also like to get Nicky and our dream would be that he shall, well [170] coached stand up and be the central figure whence help and reaction in the right direction should come, but will be able to galvanize him sufficiently to make him do a big work. It could be a glorious game as well as work if he could become enthused. He has the stuff in him, but has he the grit, the ambition.

Had Barbo for a little. He had good appreciations about Lexel – which pleased him. He is always an anxious bird and a little afraid of my rashness and of the courage I have at certain moments *de jouer tout pour le tout*.

Complete thaw, I might have ridden but had no time.

⁸³ French: engagement.

⁸⁴ Micaela Catargi (1888 – 1976) was a Romanian journalist who represented the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Romania at the League of Nations. Text of her speeches were recently published under the title *Democrația românească*, Iași, Institutul European, 2011.

Family supper and afterwards to a film made after Flers⁸⁵ play *Les nouveaux monsieurs*⁸⁶ – with Gaby Morlay⁸⁷ as chief actress. Good, but I was sleepy and occasionally napped. Nature will have her revenge occasionally.

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Journey to Egypt

Tragic breaking off of Ileana's engagement.

„Life is too big for those who live it.”

[7] Thursday January 30th 1930 Cotroceni

My happy children arrived early this morning and clamored for breakfast at 8 ½ in my room. They were full of talk and excitement and gloriously in love, but a little nervous of the officiality they are about to have.

Our first effort were reception of our united households come to congratulate. They are certainly a good looking and attractive couple and their young blushing shyness adds to their charm. But I must say that Lexel has no awkwardness, his very aristocratic bearing and his excellent manner and his use *du monde* stand him in good stead.

Everybody was touched and *émotionnée*. Then appeared Maniu, evidently pleased, but how much *en desouss* is always difficult to say with

⁸⁵ Robert de Flers (Robert Pellevé de La Motte-Ango, marquis de Flers) (25 November 1872 – 30 July 1927) was a French playwright, opera librettist, and journalist. In 1901 de Flers married Geneviève Sardou, the daughter of Victorien Sardou. He continued to be active writing librettos. His third opera libretto, *Les travaux d'Hercule* (1901), marked his first collaboration with fellow playwright Gaston Arman de Caillavet and composer Claude Terrasse. De Flers and de Caillavet also often worked together on stage plays, producing such comedies as *Le Sire de Vergy* (1903), *Les Sentiers de la vertu* (1903), *Paris ou le bon juge* (1906), *Miquette et sa mère* (1906), *Primerose* (1911), and *L'Habit vert* (1913) among other works. He later worked frequently with playwright Francis de Croisset, producing such works as *Les Vignes du seigneur* (1923), *Les Nouveaux Messieurs* (1925), and *Le Docteur miracle* (1926). After the death of Caillavet on 13 January 1915, during the Great War, de Flers played an important diplomatic part in Romania at Iassy close to King Ferdinand and Queen Marie. De Flers was a member of the Académie française from 1920 up until his death in 1927. He spent the last six years of his life as literary editor of *Le Figaro*, a position he was appointed to in 1921.

⁸⁶ *Les Nouveaux Messieurs* („the new men”) is a 1929 French silent film directed by Jacques Feyder. It is a satirical comedy, whose initial release in France was delayed for several months because of objections to its portrayal of the French parliament. *Les Nouveaux Messieurs* by Robert de Flers and Francis de Croisset had opened in Paris in February 1925, with Gaby Morlay in the leading role, and it became the biggest success of the season, running for over 500 performances. Feyder and Charles Spaak made an adaptation which sought to dispense with the verbal humor of the play but to translate it into visual terms. The film uses relatively few intertitles and those are employed mainly to convey information.

⁸⁷ Gaby Morlay (born Blanche Pauline Fumoleau; 1893 – 1964) was a French film actress.

Cesar whose words are always correct even flattering. Everybody however seems genuinely pleased that our Ileana is remaining to us.

Our last effort was the Regent Family lunch with Michal also, champagne, good cheer. Telegrams [4] begin to arrive. Of course my family is very surprised. Endless discussions with Athanasescu and also Hiott, some, I must confess exceedingly wearying like placements for our diplomatic dinners, in which form congratulations, announcements etc... are correct. They invent any amount of restrictions and God knows what else until my head absolutely buzzed.

Managed to get off for a ride on Zalamort, but it rained hard and had not dressed for rain, but Zalamort was enchanting. Tomorrow if weather allows shall take Helen Cole for a ride.

Home for a hurried cup of tea with my children the more discussions with Hiott. A talk with H. Cole, supper and then for some music at Irene's, but public opinion would not allow me to take the happy pair with me, really people do complicate life!

Friday January 31st 1930 Cotroceni

Warm foggy weather. At 9 ½ my youngsters breakfasted with me in my bedroom. Ileana is overwhelmed with beautiful flowers of which she gives me [5] a large share. All my vases are full. Lexel received from his father a telegram which was delightful: *Wird beim Rumänischen Hof kurze Hosen getragen?* No congratulations only this. Lexel was amused but mortified, but I laughed till my sides ached. People always remain gloriously themselves. For old Pless, questions of etiquette were always essential. He has no great love for his pompous old father as he took quite his mother's side and since Daisy is no more at Fürstenstein it was no more home for the boy. We hope the elder brother will also come for a few days to help Lexel fight his battles. They are firm friends and allies.

At 12 we received the whole government and everybody was sweet to everybody. Received Mr. Mironescu⁸⁸ back from abroad. He told me about the

⁸⁸ Gheorghe Gh. Mironescu (1874 – 1949) was a Romanian lawyer and politician, important member of Conservative-Democratic Party and then of the National Peasants' Party, Minister of Foreign Affairs (10 November 1928 – 7 June 1930), President of the Council (7 - 8 June 1930) and another ministerial functions later till 1935.

Hague Conference⁸⁹. It seems that in Spain Primo de Rivera⁹⁰ is at last out of power. A pity. He has done good work for his country, which made big strides under his *dictature*. Baby⁹¹ and Ali will be sad he was their great friend and protector. Lunch with household and with Minister Răducanu⁹² and Costăcescu⁹³, also [6] General Măldărescu⁹⁴. Afterwards Helene Cole and I got off for a ride and Ileana affronted the horror of the roads to Scroviște to show Lexel the little blue cottage for the first honey moon days. They had an awful time of it, fog, mud. I teased Lexel that if he still decides to remain in Romania after having such a demonstration of our roads then I really believe in his love

⁸⁹ The Hague Conference on Reparations 1929-1930 - International Conference on Reparations, which reviewed and adopted the Young Plan. Was held in The Hague from August 6 to August 31, 1929 and from January 3 to January 20, 1930. Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, Italy, Second Polish Republic, Portugal, Romania, France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Japan were represented at the 2nd session of the Hague Conference on Reparations (August 6-31, 1929). The US officially did not participate in the conference; however, initiating the Young Plan, put pressure on the participants of the conference, seeking to make this plan. As a result of behind-the-scenes negotiations between the main participants of the conference on August 31, 1929, a protocol was signed on the principle approval of the Young Plan. The final approval of the Young plan, as well as the adoption of a decision to impose sanctions in the event of Germany's refusal to pay reparations, took place at the 2nd session of the conference (3-20 January 1930), where, in addition to the States parties to the first session, Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary. One of the main decisions of the conference was also the agreement on early retirement (5 years before the date fixed by the Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919) of all occupying forces from the Rhineland (no later than 30 June 1930).

⁹⁰ Miguel Primo de Rivera y Orbaneja, 2nd Marquess of Estella, 22nd Count of Sobremonte (1870 – 1930), was a dictator, aristocrat, and military officer who served as Prime Minister of Spain from 15 September 1923 to 28 January 1930 during Spain's Restoration era. He deeply believed that it were the politicians who had ruined Spain and that governing without them he could restore the nation. His slogan was „Country, Religion, Monarchy”. Historians depict him as an inept dictator who lacked clear ideas and political acumen, and who alienated his potential supporters such as the army. He did not create a base of support among the voters, and depended instead on elite elements. His actions discredited the king and ruined the monarchy, while heightening social tensions that led in 1936 to a full-scale Spanish Civil War.

⁹¹ Nickname for Beatrice (20 April 1884 – 13 July 1966), the last child of Alfred and Maria of Edinburgh later Saxa-Coburg-Gotha. On 15 July 1909, in Coburg, she married Alfonso „Ali” de Orleans y Borbón (1886 – 1975). The couple had three sons: Alvaro (1910 – 1997), Alonso (1912 – 18 November 1936) killed in action during the Spanish Civil War, and Ataúlfo (1913 – 1974).

⁹² Ion Răducanu (1884 – 1964) was a Romanian politician, Minister of Labour, Social Insurance and Cooperation (10 November 1928 – 14 November 1929) and then Minister of Health till 7 June 1930. He will be imprisoned by the communist regime (1950 - 1964).

⁹³ Nicolae Costăchescu (1876 – 1939) was a Romanian chemist and politician. He entered politics in December 1918, at the close of World War I, and was a founding member of the Peasants' Party, serving as vice president until its 1926 merger with the Romanian National Party to form the National Peasants' Party (PNȚ). A prominent member of the latter, he was

for Ileana. They came back very late, exhausted and absolutely filthy, having had to crawl through the mist and lakes of liquid mud. Ileana having insisted for an open motor their physical discomfort had been complete. But there were kisses all the same along the way in spite of muddy faces and the little hut has been christened: Blue Heaven. Helen Cole and I on the contrary had good ground for riding. I lent her Montana, the calm, so as to be sure she should be comfortable and safe as she has not done much riding since she is married. I was riding Glandevon. She was very delighted. Crag ran with us.

Lexel has already had difficulties with his confessor, characteristically the Catholic church is making difficulties [7] it wants no Orthodox marriage and goodness know what complications. If they bother him too much he is going to threaten to become Protestant. Secretly I wish he would, he would have much less worry and I of course would be enchanted to have protestant Grandchildren to go to church with.

Saw Samsonowitch about the Bassarabian questions, saw Barbo but only for a short time. He was to have talked business with the young ones but they were late because of the fog, so they agreed to meet again on Monday.

Early supper and to the Opera „Faust”⁹⁵ to hear Chaliapin. My young ones received a great reception, but the opera was to fearfully long, they left in the middle and I before the end because I could no more stand the length, the heat. Chaliapin was magnificent, but the other were feeble, Gretchen quite bad. I was finally dead tired. *Je n'en pouvais plus!* Besides all day long I was harassed with a thousand questions, never had a moment's peace except on horse-back.

[8] Saturday February 1st 1930 Cotroceni

Today was Lexel's 25th birthday. I prepared him a little table with birthday cake and candles in my bedroom for breakfast, adding a few little gifts. It is sweet to have them with me like that. They do not isolate themselves from me in their happiness but like me to share everything which does my heart good. Lexel has a sunny nature, confiding, outspoken and withal serious,

elected senator in 1926 and deputy in 1928. Between November 1928 and April 1931, he served as Public Instruction Minister in the PNȚ cabinets of Iuliu Maniu and Gheorghe Mironescu. He was Senate President from August 1932 to November 1933.

⁹⁴ Correctly: Gheorghe D. Mărdărescu (4 August 1866 – 5 September 1938) was a Romanian general during Unification War, a commander during the Hungarian–Romanian War of 1919, and Minister of War in Ion I. C. Brătianu cabinet (25 March 1922 – 27 March 1926).

⁹⁵ *Faust* is an opera in five acts by Charles Gunod (1818 – 1892) to a French libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré from Carré's play *Faust et Marguerite*, in turn loosely based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust, Part One*. It debuted at the Théâtre Lyrique on the Boulevard du Temple in Paris on 19 March 1859.

sometimes I wonder if I am dreaming of if I shall to awaken to something as disagreeable as this happy event is sweet to both Ileana and me. Remained long in bed so as to put the finishing touches to my *Spanish Pictures*, they are now completed and I shall be able to begin working again at my Autobiography. I am longing to get back to it. Before lunch received with my young pair a deputation from the *Escorte*⁹⁶ and one from my regiment⁹⁷. Everybody beams when they see the young pair, they are so truly good to look upon and they radiate. A real light of happiness and youth bursts from them so that faces break into [9] smiles at the sight of them. Family lunch with the Americans and afterwards I took a splendid ride on Zalamort. H. Cole was unable to ride today but I took them out with me and showed off my favorite of them. Zalamort was full of beans and great fun to ride as he needed a little treating being on his toes. But he is an absolutely enchanting mount. Had my bath and rub down then received the Russian general sent by Gretchen, really an interesting and capable man, the only one of those working with Ducky⁹⁸ and Kirill who gives me the feeling of being *quelqu'un*. Then went to see Ileana exhibition: her sculpture with asset of young girls mostly painters, and also Stiubey⁹⁹. Ileana's things are strong and show astonishingly vigor for one so young. A very nice little exhibition.

The great effort of the day was our first diplomatic dinners. We all dressed up in our best clothes and decorations, the table (the huge round one) was a real garden. Our Brautpaar sat facing us. The placement had been

⁹⁶ Regimentul de Escortă Regal (Royal Escort Regiment) created by King Carol I through High Royal Decree No. 985 from 1st April 1908. Since 21, 1930 (High Decree nr. 2246) was named „Principele Nicolae al României”.

⁹⁷ Regimentul 4 Roșiori „Regina Maria” (onorific name) through High Royal Decree nr. 2480 from 11 November 1915, see colonel dr. Gabriel-George Pătrașcu, *Structuri militare române care au purtat denumiri ale unor personalități princiare, regale, politice și militare autohtone și străine între anii 1859 – 1947*, în *Buletinul Arhivelor Militare Române Document*, nr. 1 [79] 2018, p. 4.

⁹⁸ Victoria Melita „Ducky” (1876 – 1936) was a younger sister of Queen Marie. Married first time (1894) to Ernst Ludwig Duke of Hesse (1868 – 1937). They had a daughter, Elisabeth „Ella” (1895 – 1903), and they divorced in 1901. Victoria Melita married second time, on 8 October 1905, to Grand Duke Kirill of Russia (12 October 1876 – 12 October 1938). They had three children: Maria „Mashka” (1907 – 1951), Kira (1909 – 1967) and Vladimir „Boiky” (1917 – 1992).

⁹⁹ Dimitrie Știubei (1901 – 1986) was a famous Romanian painter of the marine art and portretist, marine officer. In 1928 married Louise Vallerie Schmidt who had a daughter Marie Louise Yvona Zottu, married later to the architect Tiberiu Ricci. In 1932 Știubei was promoted captain and appointed royal ADC in the Military House of King Carol II. Since 1975 he lived in Mettmann, West Germany. See Mariana Păvăloiu, *Comandorul Dimitrie Știubei*, *Revista Marea Noastră*, Anul VIII, nr. 28, 1998, iulie - septembrie, pp. 22 – 23.

difficult. I had put in a pale grey dress, *mousseline de soie*¹⁰⁰, perfectly ideal [10] color, with veil and pearl and diamante diadem, most becoming. Ileana was in a plain apricot pink, very young looking, Lisabetha and Sitta both in white and silver. Lisabetha's emeralds are really superb. There was quite a good atmosphere, excellent and not at all heavy food and it was not at all dull. Afterwards the younger diplomats came in and we made *cercle*. Tried to talk to as many as I could. My youngsters were perfect, amiable, simple, talkative, no *gêne* or awkwardness. Everybody looked very pleased. Lexel much admired my get up. I called my grey a „benign grey” it certainly is a color in a thousand that, when you move seems to envelope you in mist. The dress was of *mousseline de soie* made exceedingly wide with yards and yards of stuff, but falling in many clinging pleats. The evening fashions having become long this year are really very becoming.

Sunday February 2nd 1930 Cotroceni

I never seem to have a second to myself. My young ones begin the day by breakfast in my room at 9 ½. [11] Lexel seems enchanted with this habit and does his best to be punctual which it seems was not one of his strong points. Daisy never knew what hour it was.

Went to English church with American guests, then to the Georgescu concert which was a very long one so that we were late for lunch which was however a family lunch as tomorrow we have a huge lunch for the government and households, extended to quite small *fonctionnaires*.

My young ones went to inspect the Corbescu¹⁰¹ house and decided it was just what they wanted. They came back delighted and I had to go with them after lunch to look at it. I was a little less enchanted than they, but it could be made into a sweet little house it has good feature in it but crammed with horrors which of course make it unattractive. I think they would need more elbow-room but for the moment they of course think it's delightful to live in very close quarters. But the house has charming stair-cases, a covered entrée and one really big room. I let them be enchanted and make their plans, we shall see what will come out of it.

¹⁰⁰ French: silk muslin having a crisp finish.

¹⁰¹ Matei Gh. Corbescu (1876 – 1923) was a Romanian journalist and politician, member of the Liberal Party, prefect of Bucharest (1908 – 1910) and mayor (February – December 1922). He organized a huge ceremony for Royal Family at Arcul de Triumf (the provisory one built according to the plans of architect Petre Antonescu) after their return from the Coronation festivities in Alba Iulia (16 October 1922). His House was in Strada Rotarilor today Intrarea I.L. Caragiale.

[12] For tea my American friends who leave tomorrow and after that long talk with Athanasescu and several things which ate my time till supper. I could neither read nor write nor turn on my radio.

Cella came to supper. Good massage afterwards. From all sides wishes and congratulations. Ileana is really deeply loved in the country where she has been a real little pioneer. Only from Baby nothing yet, that is the only shadow; that poor Alfonsito¹⁰², though Baby in words always spoke warningly against the marriage at the bottom of her heart I think she desired it. She dearly loves Sitto and would like to steal happiness from him. It would have been a crime to allow such marriage, but there was a moment when Ileana thought she could make the sacrifice. I had not the courage to telegraph to Ena¹⁰³ but I shall have to.

Monday February 3rd 1930 Cotroceni

Today my friend Helen Cole left. Everybody liked her, she is a gentle, sensitive woman, full of kindness [13] intelligent, modest, a thinker, no one of those of today who cast off all sentiment. We can talk of deep things together and have a good deal in common. We have sincere affection and understanding for each other. Her daughter is intelligent, but less sympathetic than the mother, a rather cold little creature. The mother feels this and confessed that she was „wanting in reverence and not as responsive as she would like”. A modern child.

¹⁰² Nickname for Alfonso „Sitto”, Prince of Asturias (10 May 1907 – 6 September 1938), the eldest son of King Alfonso XIII (1886 – 1931, died in 1941) and his wife Victoria Eugenie „Ena” of Battenberg (1887 – 1969). He was heir apparent to the throne of Spain from birth until he renounced his rights in 1933 in order to marry the Cuban commoner Eldemira Sampetro. He died at the age of 31 as a result of a car accident. Though appearing to have sustained minor injuries, his haemophilia, inherited by him from his great-grandmother Queen Victoria, led to fatal internal bleeding. During the visit of Queen Marie in Spain it was discussed the possibility of a marriage of Princess Ileana to Alfonsito.

¹⁰³ Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg (Victoria Eugenie Julia Ena; 1887 – 1969) was Queen of Spain as the wife of King Alfonso XIII. A Hessian princess by birth, she was a member of the Battenberg family, a morganatic branch of the House of Hessen-Darmstadt. She was a relative of the British royal family as a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. She married King Alfonso XIII at the Royal Monastery of San Jerónimo in Madrid on 31 May 1906. Present at the ceremony were her widowed mother and brothers, as well as her cousins, the Prince and Princess of Wales. After the wedding ceremony, the royal procession was heading back to the Royal Palace when an assassination attempt was made on the King and Queen, when anarchist Mateu Morral threw a bomb from a balcony at the royal carriage. Victoria Eugenie's life was saved because, at the exact moment the bomb exploded, she turned her head in order to see St. Mary's Church, which Alfonso was showing her. She escaped injury, although her dress was spotted with the blood of a guard who was riding beside the carriage. A large statue in front of the Royal Monastery of San Jeronimo commemorates the victims of the bombing of 31 May 1906.

Ileana and Lexel declare that they are going to be an old fashioned, uninteresting couple, who are altogether going to live for each other. He is sweetly protective with her and both have a tremendous feeling of possession, he for her, she for him. They radiantly make plans for the future. „Household troubles” as Nicky used to call them formerly, absorb them, only for the moment they see no troubles. She will keep Paunule¹⁰⁴ as lady in waiting and Mimarr as factotum, living with them in the house. I am delighted at this a better element could be imagined. Of all things after their honeymoon days at Scroviște they want to go to Cyprus and Ileana [14] with the promptness of which she is characteristic has already written to Sir Ronald Storrs¹⁰⁵ about it.

We had a terrible *déjeuner* today. All the ministers and their wives and all our household down to the smallest. I must say it tried my royal very long patience. First of all several more came than were expected so that at the last moment the table had to be enlarged which made us sit down late. A terribly big menu had to be got through. I sat between Georgie and the Patriarch but did not feel particularly conversational so the meal seemed endless to me. I longed to get up. Besides it had become a beautiful day, spring-like, sunshine, mild. I had ordered Montana for 3 ½ and felt the time slipping. I confess that I shortened the *cercle* afterwards *parce que je n'en pouvais plus!*¹⁰⁶.

Finally I got off for my ride taking Crag with me. It was a heavenly afternoon, excellent ground and a real joy to have a little sunshine.

Good bath and rub down then we had a talk *à quatre*, my young ones, Barbo and I. A business talk *mettant les points sur les i*¹⁰⁷. The principal [15] thing is to get Papa Pless who is arriving on the 10th to do his part, and it seems he has no special love for Lexel. He made a stupidity in marrying a too young wife and now he is rather like an angry old bear. Lexel who adores his mother does not feel much filial love for his father.

¹⁰⁴ Păunule was nickname for a lady-in-waiting of the Queen who was the daughter of Professor Vasile Păun (1850 – 1908) who taught Prince Ferdinand Romanian.

¹⁰⁵ Correctly: Sir Ronald Henry Amherst Storrs (1881 – 1955) was an official in the British Foreign and Colonial Office. He served as Oriental Secretary in Cairo (1909 – 1917), Military Governor of Jerusalem (28 December 1917 – 30 June 1929) of Jerusalem and Judea (1 July 1920 – 30 November 1926), Governor of Cyprus (30 November 1926 – 29 October 1932), and Governor of Northern Rhodesia (27 October 1932 – 19 February 1934).

¹⁰⁶ French: because I couldn't stand anymore!

¹⁰⁷ French: crossing the T's and dot the I's, spelling out some home truth.

After supper had to go to the theater to see a piece of Antoine's¹⁰⁸ very witty, but I was just a little tired and sleepy then it gives me *unruhen in den Beinen* and its an effort to sit still on a chair for a long time. The Romanian theater though has made great progress.

[14 verso] The man's part in Antoine's play is an exact replica of himself, cynical and witty.

Tuesday February 4th 1930 Cotroceni

The days are already a good deal longer and we are having again sunshine, such a rare thing this winter. This mild weather although it makes the roads impossible allows riding which is my greatest joy.

Every morning my young ones come from breakfast and we have pleasant chats. Today Ileana has to rest we kept her in bed all day long, except the evening for [16] cinema to which she made the invitations and for once we tore from Sitta permission for poor lonely Mr. Hill to be allowed to come. She will allow him to mix with no one and accept no invitation even to our house. A deadly life for a young men in a strange country, and he looks full of vitality and good cheer. Besides it seems to me rather a wrong idea that the young should know no one if he is to educate the boy, how can he help to educate his mind towards his people? But Sitta is adamant has a steely will when she has decreed a thing. She is bringing the boy up in the strict way they were brought up though she relates with horror how their mother curtailed their joy of life and suffocated them. Curiously enough however she is doing exactly the same thing with her son. Perhaps she is in the right. My principles were too idealistic, I expected decency of everybody and certainly my sons are hardly a success. Perhaps in making a joyless, inexpressive automaton out of Mickey, she will produce *un homme du devoir*¹⁰⁹ perhaps it needs limited brains to be really pedagogical, to induce strict observances to rules. *Le sens du devoir* does not I suppose come naturally it has to be dashed¹¹⁰ [17] into a creature. But the result of this education on Michael for the moment is far from attractive. He is a completely unloving and not particularly loving child. He

¹⁰⁸ Anton (Antoine) Bibescu (1878 – 1951) was a Romanian aristocrat, lawyer diplomat. On 29 April 1919 he married Elizabeth Asquith, the daughter of H.H. Asquith, former Liberal Prime Minister. Antoine continued his diplomatic career in Washington D.C. (1920–1926) as Minister of the Romanian Legation (the present Embassy of Romania in Washington D.C. was first used as such during his tenure) and in Madrid (1 March 1927 – 1 August 1929 and 16 February 1930 – 1 July 1933). After the war, when his estates in Romania were confiscated by the communist regime, he left the country, never to return. He died in 1951 and was buried in Paris.

¹⁰⁹ French: man of duty, man with a great sense of duty.

¹¹⁰ In the original: dreshed.

promises to become a sort of Georgy stodgy¹¹¹ and unemotional but without Georgy's splendid laugh which makes of him a good fellow in congenial society.

Received Mamulea¹¹² and Mr. Fochberg head of the *Casa Muncii*. A good law for its *autonomie* has been proposed but not carried throw, I am to help to get it applied. I shall do my best. I like Mr. Fochberg, he has a clever, honest agreeable face and he and Mamulea seem to see, eye to eye. I then saw Coandă¹¹³ who had seen Carol in Paris and then Luca Sturdza¹¹⁴ who having come back from Riga had interesting things to relate about Soviet Russia and their going on there.

Family lunch and off for a splendid ride on Zalamort. Bath and hair washing etc... whilst I read. In the evening cinema. Sitta and Sylvia Hönich and Sitta for supper. The Georgies¹¹⁵ did not come. Ena has telegraphed very kindly which is a relief, but nothing from sister Baby. She must take it worse than Ena, because she was the pleader for Alfonsitto.

¹¹¹ In the original: stodgy.

¹¹² Ioan Mamulea, (1873 – 1940) was a physician of the Royal Court since October 1908, after the accident of dr. Iuliu Theodori (1834 - 1919) at the Peleş Castle, on 5/18 October 1908. See Sorin Cristescu, *Carol I - Corespondența privată 1878 - 1912*, București, Editura Tritonic, 2005, pp. 453, 459, 463.

¹¹³ Constantin Coandă (4/16 March 1857 – 30 September 1932) was a Romanian general and politician. He was ADC of Prince Ferdinand (1899 – 1901) military attaché in Berlin, Vienna and Paris, director of the Artillery Department of the Ministry of War, head of department in the General Staff, General Inspector of Artillery. For a short time he was Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (24 October – 29 November 1918) on 10 December 1919 he signed the treaties of Saint-Germain (with Austria), Neuilly-sur-Seine (with Bulgaria) and the Minority Treaty. He was President of Senate (22 June 1920 – 22 January 1922) and was badly wounded on 8 December 1920 by a bomb set up at the Senate by the terrorist and anarchist Max Goldstein. Among his seven children was Henri Coandă (1886 – 1972), the discoverer of the Coandă effect.

¹¹⁴ Prince Mihail R. Sturdza (1886 –1980), aka Luca or moș Luca, was a Romanian nobleman and diplomat. He was a descendant of the wealthy and influential Sturdza family, and played a brief role in Romanian interwar politics. After several diplomatic posts (e.g. in Vienna, Budapest and in Washington as chargé d'affaires) Sturdza was appointed as Minister plenipotentiary in Riga, Tallin and Helsingfors (1 June 1932 – 15 September 1935), Copenhagen (1 May 1938 – 10 October 1939). In that capacity he acted in 1932 as Romania's representative in the negotiations with Soviet Russia about a non-aggression agreement. As a supporter of the leader of the Iron Guard, Horia Sima, he was a brief period (September 14, 1940 - January 26, 1941) Minister of Foreign Affairs during the so-called National Legionary State.

¹¹⁵ There are George of Greece and his wife Lisabetha.

[18] Wednesday February 5th 1930 Cotroceni

Marvelous weather unallowed [sic!] for this season. Quite spring, beautifully sunny, radiant in fact. Head big reception for congratulations, the whole big room was full. We executed ourselves as best we could and everybody looked very pleased. We then received Mme Buzdugan separately and finally before lunch the mayor Dobrescu. After lunch got out for a good ride on Tohan. He had something the matter with his shoulder. He had had something the matter with his shoulder and had therefore not been in use for outing again. But it, was so lovely that I remained out long, exploring the small by paths of the woods.

Back for a good rub-down, and later Barbo. The day ended with our second diplomatic diner. Table one mass of lily of the valley and yellow days and yellow carnations. Quite pleasant company and a mass of minor diplomats afterwards and large cercle. The Palerets¹¹⁶ have arrived and both seem very

¹¹⁶ Correctly: Sir Michael Palairt (1882 –1956) was a British diplomat who was minister to Romania, Sweden and Austria, and minister and ambassador to Greece. Palairt was posted to Rome in 1906, Vienna in 1908, Paris in 1913, and Athens in 1917. In 1918 he was posted back to Paris for the Peace Conference. After a brief time in the Foreign Office in London, he returned to Paris in 1920 with the rank of First Secretary. In 1922 he was posted as Counselor to Tokyo where he and his family survived the Great Kanto earthquake on 1 September 1923, which devastated Tokyo and destroyed the British Embassy. He moved on to Peking in 1925, returned to London in 1926, and returned to Rome again in 1928. As an experienced middle-rank diplomatist, Palairt then became minister to Romania in December 1929. Here their charm and hospitality and keen interest in Romanian culture won the Palairts a wide circle of friends. Prince Carol, who returned from exile and became king in 1930, showed no grudge at having been requested to leave England in 1928 because of his alleged involvement in a plot to place him on the Romanian throne. Good Anglo-Romanian relations, both political and commercial, were established, but German economic and political penetration had become menacing before Palairt left for Stockholm in 1935. Palairt was minister to Sweden 1935–37 before being posted to Vienna as minister to Austria in December 1937. This was a critical time for Austria. Palairt reported to the Foreign Office that Hitler had „raved like a madman” at Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg during their meeting at Berchtesgaden on 12 February 1938. There was nothing that Britain could do: the *Anschluss* followed on 11 – 12 March and Palairt was recalled to London. He was sent as the second UK delegate (with Lord Winterton) to the Évian Conference on Jewish refugees on 6 – 13 July. In September – December 1938 he was sent to take charge of the legation in Bucharest because of the illness of his successor as minister there, Sir Reginald Hoare. In June 1939 he was posted to Athens again as minister to Greece. When the German army approached Athens in April 1941 the British Embassy was evacuated, but Palairt remained accredited to the Greek government in exile and accompanied them to Crete and then, after the fall of Crete in May 1941, to Cairo. His post was upgraded to Ambassador in 1942 before he retired in April 1943. However, he returned to the Foreign Office as a temporary Assistant Under-Secretary, dealing with matters concerning prisoners of war, until July 1948.

nice, both tall and slim, she looks gentle and refined, a dark-haired woman¹¹⁷. Lexel and Ileana beamed at us from the opposite side of the huge table.

[19] Thursday February 6th 1930 Cotroceni

The happy event today was Mignon arrival. Great reception at the station, Government etc... Serbian Legation¹¹⁸, Regency. Mignon is very stout but looks well, happy. Is as *gemütlich* as ever, a delicious creature, a little uncouth, but so natural and such a good companion. I love my old Mignon and it always a feast for me when she comes. She astonished and amused Lexel by her extreme naturalness and the killing way she describes her life in Serbia, her Sandro, her children, her household, her house. She certainly seems in excellent health, but it is a pity to see her so fat. Besides she does not look after her complexion, I never in my life saw anyone less vain. In fact she is almost criminally indifferent to her own appearance.

Family lunch and then Mignon actually accepted with joy to have a ride with me. I gave her Montana and she was enchanted with the horse and followed me without a grunt or protest at my own pace. She has not ridden for three years and has had two babies between and yet she felt quit at her ease in the saddle. [20] It was a lovely afternoon. A cozy cup of tea and evening before the fire in my bedroom. Supper and afterwards with Nicky and Mignon to Calvin Brown's excellent conference upon what we should do to make Romania as prosperous as she should be. We enjoyed it thoroughly, Nicky more than anybody and yet it was with difficulty that we managed to get him to come with us. Ileana was having a rest because she had to naval ball to go to. Nicky was to go with them so this conference helped to pass the time till the hour struck, always a late one for balls, here, alas. My *Brautpaar*¹¹⁹ are incredibly delighted to each other. He is amongst other things looking after her clothes for her, wants her to be smart and has himself ideas how he wants her to look. He has ordered her a beautiful ermine cape and a white velvet dress to

¹¹⁷ Michael Palaiet married Mary de Vere Studd (1895 – 1977), a society beauty who was painted by Augustus John. The couple both converted to Roman Catholicism. Their daughter was Anne Mary Celestine Palaiet (1916 – 1998) a Brith code breaker who married Julian Asquith, 2nd Earl of Oxford and Asquith in 1947.

¹¹⁸ Serbian Legation was lead by that time by Boško I. Čolak-Antić (1871 – 1949), also known as Boshko Tcholak-Antitch. Was a Serbian diplomat, and Marshal of the Court of the Kingdom of Serbia and Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He served as ambassador in the Middle East as well as in several European capitals: Cairo (1908 – 1912), Sofia (1913 – 1915), Stockholm (1918 – 1920) and Bucharest (21 February 1921 – 1935). In 1935 he goes back to Yugoslavia after being appointed Marshal of the Royal Court of King Peter II, he remained in that capacity until 1941. His brother was General Vojin Tcholak-Antitch (1877 – 1945).

¹¹⁹ German: engaged couple.

go with it. He has also given her a ring of two gorgeous diamonds which she can hardly believe she really possesses. In fact he is spoiling her in many ways and is head over ears in love, so is she.

This evening she is to face all her little naval chums in her new dignity, her Făt Frumos at her side.

[21] Friday February 7th 1930 Cotroceni

Marvelous weather continues. Made a lazy morning of it with Mignon. We ate always happy to be together and have endless topics of conversation. Mignon is never brilliant but she has thumping common sense and living with two clever men Sandro and Paul¹²⁰ she learns a lot. Politics and the art of governing from the one, art, literature, social questions from the other. Then there are the children, now also the gardens and I hope soon the horses, because Peter has a great love for horses and is beginning to ride quite nicely. I again took Mignon for a good long ride giving her Montana again, riding Kiraliff myself who was rather a beast on the way home, but I know him now so well, that I feel when he is preparing his beastly jumps and nip them in the bud. Today however he tried his best to put me off, and this always on the way home, at first he is generally like a lamb so if not prepared for his ways you are taken quite unawares and that is why he has thrown many a rider over his head. We met Michal and Mr. Hill on the way home. We are not allowed [22] to have anything to do with Mr. Hill, with quite surprising energy Sitta has put him in the narrow at little corner which is to be his special niche and out of which we are not to entice him. The unity and pleasant companionship I hoped his presence might bring about is not to be allowed. Everything in Sitta's household is to be kept with Queen Sophie-like boredom and lifeless stiffness. But perhaps she is right. This is a time of dissolution and want of reverence and

¹²⁰ Prince Paul (1893 – 1976) was the only son of Prince Arsen of Serbia (1859 – 1938), younger brother of King Peter I (1844, reigned 1903 – 1921), and of Princess and Countess Aurora Pavlovna Demidova, a granddaughter on one side of the Finnish philanthropist Aurora Karamzin and her Russian husband Prince and Count Pavel Nikolaievich Demidov and, on the other, of the Russian Prince Peter Troubetzkoy and his wife Elisabeth Esperovna, by birth a Princess Belosselsky-Belozersky. Paul was a first cousin of King Peter's father Alexander I. On 22 October 1923, Paul married in Belgrade Princess Olga of Greece and Denmark (1903 – 1997). Her father was Prince Nicholas of Greece and Denmark, the third son of George I of Greece. Her mother was Grand Duchess Elena Vladimirovna of Russia, a granddaughter of Tsar Alexander II of Russia. The couple had three children: prince Alexander of Yugoslavia (1924 – 2016), Prince Nicholas of Yugoslavia (1928 – 1954) and Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia (born on 7 April 1936). Paul will be Prince Regent of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia during the minority of King Peter II (9 October 1934 – 28 March 1941). After the coup d'état of 27th March 1941, he fled the country and lived in exile with his family, under house arrest by the British in Kenya, later in South Africa.

if she can erect such barrier means that there is stuffing in her. I only wish it were married to a little more life. There is a deadness about it all which is depressing. She and Michal and the Georgies lunched with us yesterday.

The young one went out to Copăceni¹²¹ in the afternoon. Quiet supper and early to bed.

Saturday February 8th 1930 Cotroceni

Such a wonderful morning, rooms flooded with sunshine. Mignon as well as the young ones breakfasted with me in my bedroom. Later two audiences [23] Prof. St. Georg¹²², the one who wrote 3 fine articles in my defense when I was attacked in the Regency question. He is young, has an interesting face, rather delicate-looking. He is interested in literature, was a iorgist in his youth but fount Iorga¹²³ to unstable, to changeable and he quarreled with him over his attitude in the Carol question. He has written a play he asked me to go to. It is being played this evening. Shall take Mignon there. Received afterwards old Admiral Grasoski¹²⁴ former ADC. His wife was very ill and was not able to

¹²¹ At Copăcenii de Sus (today 1 Decembrie), Ilfov county, on the eastern border of Argeș river, 7 km south from Bucharest, Crown Princess Marie inherited a property from Gheorghe Emanuel Filipescu (1841 – 1913), former marshal of the Royal Palace. The manor was built according to the plans of French architect Paul Gottereau (1843 – 1904).

¹²² Ion Sân-Giorgiu (also known as Sîn-Giorgiu, Sângiorgiu or Sîngiorgiu; 1893–1950) was a Romanian modernist poet, dramatist, essayist, literary and art critic, also known as a journalist, academic, and right wing politician. During his early years, he was influenced by Expressionism and contributed to the literary magazine *Gândirea*; he progressively moved towards support for the Iron Guard (the Legionary Movement), edited the far right journal *Chemarea Vremii*, and spent his last years as a member of Horia Sima's government in exile. His daughter Ioana (d. 1969) married the writer Vintilă Corbul (1916 – 2008).

¹²³ Nicolae Iorga (1871 – 1940) was a Romanian historian, journalist, politician, literary critic, memoirist, poet and playwright. Co-founder (in 1910) of the Democratic Nationalist Party (PND), he served as a member of Parliament, President of the Deputies' Assembly and Senate, cabinet minister and briefly (18 April 1931– 31 May 1932) as Prime Minister. Iorga produced an unusually large body of scholarly works, establishing his international reputation as a medievalist, Byzantinist, Latinist, Slavist, art historian and philosopher of history. Holding teaching positions at the University of Bucharest, the University of Paris and several other academic institutions, Iorga was founder of the International Congress of Byzantine Studies and the Institute of South-East European Studies (ISSEE). His activity also included the transformation of Vălenii de Munte town into a cultural and academic center since 1908. He was assassinated on 27 November by a group of members of Legionary Movement.

¹²⁴ N. Grasoski (Grașoski) marine officer, later admiral, was aide de camp of King Carol I, see *Almanach de Gotha*, 1897, 1153, 1898, p. 1176, 1899, p. 1213, 1900, p. 1022, 1901, p. 990, 1902, p. 1010, 1904, 1017, 1905, p. 1046, 1906, p. 1023, 1907, p. 1031, 1908, p. 1025, 1909, p. 1041, 1910, p. 1159, 1911, p. 1174, 1913, p. 1187, 1914, p. 1087, of King Ferdinand I, see *Almanach de Gotha*, 1915, p. 1065, *maître de la Cour* of Queen Elisabeth see *Almanach de Gotha*, 1916, pag. 1060. In May 1917 Romanian representative to the Romanian Red Cross in

answer any invitation to lunch. Lunch alone with Nicky and Mignon, the *Brautpaar* being at a lunch at the German Legation¹²⁵. Ileana astonished Lexel by her royal *Auftreten* a self-assurance *dans le monde officiel*. He felt proud but also a little anxious. He had not yet seen her in a very royal part, it gave him almost a shock. Ileana can be almost brilliant on such occasions and has a perfect *savoir-faire*.

A wonderful ride – such a heavenly afternoon, warm and a little windy, but absolutely nothing to prepare us for the sudden change two hours later. The wind became a hurricane and the temperature felt to zero. Mignon was riding Benjemma and I Tohan, we met Sitta and also [24] saw Michal and Mr. Hill when we started. Mignon loved the riding and will be a bitter disappointment if we have to give it up.

Nice little family supper in Nicky's apartment and afterwards he actually came to the theater with us to see St. Georgie's piece *Omul de Azi*, very amusing, well played, we thoroughly enjoyed it. The audience gave us a tremendous reception. Filotti¹²⁶ was excellent in the part of an Italian demimondaine. Mignon is pleased to amuse herself a little, she leads such an over quiet, over dull life.

Sunday February 9th 1930 Cotroceni

Hard frost. No more riding I am afraid. Snow would have been better. Nice breakfast round my bed, cheerful chats. Mignon is rolling in content at being here. Went to concert of Polish music directed by Georgescu. We all went to Buftea but on the way inspected with my young pair a very nice house quite English style. Certainly it is lighter, more roomy, much more spacious as proportions than the little Corbescu [25] house, in better repair, in a better situation with space around it, in fact a much more conventional, richer house. But my young ones remain adamant in their allegiance to the other one. The Corbescu house has taken their fancy, they stick to it, that is their ideal, a little small no doubt, but the sort of house they want, the sort of house they feel they

Berne for prisoners of war, see *Les proces verbaux de l'Agence internationale des prisonniers de guerre (AIPG)*, edites et annotes par Daniel Palmieri, Geneve, 2014, p. 173.

¹²⁵ German legation was led by that time by Gerhard von Mutius (1872 – 1934), German diplomat, minister in Oslo (1918 – 1920), at Peace Conference (1921), Copenhagen (1923 – 1927) and Bucharest (1927 – 1931). German writer Dagmar von Mutius (1919–2008) was his daughter.

¹²⁶ Maria Filotti (1883 – 1956) was a Romanian actress. She was described as one of the „prestigious actors of the great realistic school” and the „directress” of a theater „that made an important contribution to transmitting the experience from one generation to the next”. (Simion Alterescu, *An abridged History of the Romanian Theater*, București, Editura Academiei RSR, 1983, pp. 115 and 162 – 163). In 1930 she was elected as president of *Sindicatul Artiștilor Dramatici și Lirici*.

could arrange as they would and feel cozy in. Of Ileana I understand it, I have accustomed her to my funny tastes, but that Lexel should so immediately understand the charm of our Romanian style astonishes me.

At Buftea the usual big family party. I drove with my young ones. Mignon brought Sitta in her motor. Bunki was delicious but poor Nadège¹²⁷ is still on her sofa though a little better perhaps. We drank excellent coffee, there was talk and laughter and an atmosphere of friendly good cheer then back we drove again.

In the evening family supper and a good film afterwards taken from Zola¹²⁸ *Fécondité*. Some parts rather painful to look at, but certain a very fine film exceedingly well acted but hardly for children.

[26] Monday February 10th 1930 Cotroceni

An overfull day. Hard frost in the night but wonderful sunshine, no time however to go out. Breakfast meeting in my room, great discussions with Mignon and my young ones about wedding details, clothes etc. They kept me nailed in my bed and made me almost late for my audiences: A nice little catholic bishop or is he only priest¹²⁹? who came to me about a Catholic church they want to build in Sinaia to His Majesty's memory¹³⁰. A very pretty design with which I entirely agree, also I am touched at their thought. He was a good Catholic and suffered much for and because of his church. Then came a certain M-me Oliveira, a Brazilian daughter of the Brazilian Ambassador in London¹³¹. A pleasant woman who has known me in England, but I do not remember her.

¹²⁷ Nadège Știrbei (1876 – 1955) was the daughter of Prince George G. Bibescu (1834 – 1902) and countess Marie-Henriette-Valentine de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay (1839 – 1914) and sister of George-Valentin Bibescu (1880 – 1941). In 1895 she married in Geneva Barbu Alexandru Știrbei (1872 – 1946). The couple had four daughters: Maria (1896 – 1990), Nadejda (1897 – 1994), Eliza (1898 – 1987) and Ecaterina (1902 – 1946). For details see Oana Marinache, *Reședințele Știrbey din București și Buftea*, București, Editura ACS, 2013, and by the same author *Nadeja Știrbey, Jurnal de prințesă (1916 – 1919)*, București, Editura Istoria Artei, 2014.

¹²⁸ Émile Zola (1840 – 1902) was a French novelist, journalist, playwright, the best-known practitioner of the literary school of naturalism, and an important contributor to the development of theatrical naturalism. Zola published his novel *Fécondité* in 1899. *Fécondité* is a French film (1929) directed by Henri Etiévant inspired by this novel.

¹²⁹ Benedikt Wolgner, catholic priest in Sinaia (1899 – 1940).

¹³⁰ The catholic church in Sinaia will be built in the years 1936 – 1940.

¹³¹ Raul Régis de Oliveira (1874 – 1942), was a Brazilian diplomat, ambassador in Vienna (30 March 1915 – 8 May 1916), in Paris (11 May – 3 December 1919), in The Hague (10 September 1920 – 23 October 1922) in Mexico-City (10 February – 14 October 1923), and in London (29 April 1925 – 26 December 1939).

Family lunch, the afternoon cut up by different things. Ileana is not quite well and we arranged that she should see M-me Reiner¹³² at Sitta's house as Sitta is being treated by her, so it is less conspicuous if she sees her there. She did not find her in a very good condition as begs her not to go straight of to Cyprus [27] after her wedding as she will have to go easy at first, be within reach of a little medical aid if necessary, this was a shock to her, but Ileana is a brave little thing. She was however a good deal upset and thereupon came the excitement of old Papa Pless' arrival.

I have not seen him for over 20 years so of course the change is great especially as owing to having broken his leg and to arthritis he no more walks quite upright, is rather lame and bends from the shoulders which make him an older man. He is of course *très Grand Seigneur et homme du monde*, amiable, she one feels in him the man who has always lived *pour son bon plaisir*.

Amiable conversation (Nicky has fetched him at the station) and then Lexel carried him off to his room. He kept staring at Ileana with great interest. I wonder what thoughts he had. Lexel is not his favorite son. He likes the youngest and it would it seems be pleased to cut Lexel out of Fürstenstein for Balko, the third son. So we must go carefully. I do not yet know who is to tackle the business questions, I feel quite unequal to that part. It will have to be Barbo and Hiott.

[28] We had a small family supper in the big dining room to which Sitta came but not the Georgies who had a dinner. Afterwards we arranged a bridge with Mignon, her lady and old Poklevski¹³³ who was a friend of Pless in former gayer days. They were pleased to meet again. I and my young ones got off to bed early, leaving the others to their game. Luckily Mignon likes a good game of bridge.

¹³² Marta Trancu-Rainer (1875 – 1950) was the first surgeon in Romania, member of the Medicine Academy (1935). Her brother was the politician Grigore Trancu-Iași (23 October 1874 – 7 January 1940). On 7 February 1903 she married Francisc Iosif Rainer (28 December 1874 – 5 August 1944) an Austro-Hungarian-born Romanian pathologist, physiologist and anthropologist. She took part at the Unification War and she managed three hospitals: Colțea, Royal Palace and the School of Bridges and Roads. She was conferred the Order *Crucea Regina Maria*, cl. I on 19 February 1919.

¹³³ Stanislaw Alfonsovici Poklewski-Koziell (1868 – 1937) was a Russian diplomat Polish origin, diplomatic missions in Tokio (1897 – 1901) London (1902 – 1907), Minister plenipotentiary in Teheran (26 September 1909 – end of 1913) cf. *Almanach de Gotha*, 1913, p. 1107 in Bucharest (20 December 1913/2 January 1914 – 27 November/10 December 1916, then 6/19 May – November 1917). After the war he established in Romania and died in Bucharest on 4 May 1937, see Sorin Cristescu, *Regina Maria - însemnări din ultima parte a vieții*, București, Editura Corint, 2018, p. 34.

Thursday February 11th 1930 Cotroceni

Radiant day though heavy frost in the night. The usual breakfast and at 10 ½ saw Maniu. He was nice but there was a little something that lit like a little flame of anxiety in my heart. He asked me not to make any decisive *Abmachung*¹³⁴ with old Pless, before he, Maniu, was able to have certain information about Lexel that he was waiting for. He was Sphinx as usual and rather upset at the precipitation of Ileana's engagement. I agreed with him that it had been rather too quick and that I myself would have preferred if the young ones had given us any breathing space. We then had a conference about the wedding arrangements [29] with Hiott, Athanasescu, Stircea, Sitta and Nicky, we settled everything *en principe* so that can carry on during my absence. Before lunch I saw Barbo and he explained to me what Maniu had meant and it stirred my anxiety to a brighter flame. Let even a little *angoisse* in my heart. But I carried on, then I had a talk with Nicky also with Mignon, both were disturbing, but I passionate hope that this is only a *cauchemare* that I will not put it down. But suddenly everything seemed blighted. Lunch at Sitta's with old Pless whom I afterwards had with me for a *tête-à-tête* tea, and arranged with him that he will have a talk about business matters with Barbo after diner. Lexel declares his father, who prefers his youngest brother, would be only too delighted to get rid of him. I will say that he proposed that Lexel might become a Romanian if I wished. I said I hardly believed that this could be done. We left it at that, I did not want to go into details myself, preferring that it should be discussed with Barbo who is Ileana's trustee in what concerns her fortune etc...

I saw Barbo before supper and we compared our anxieties. [30] Big diner for Papa Pless round large table, one mass of flowers. Had invited the Polish¹³⁵ and the German minister and wife, Sărățeanu and wife, Hiott, Barbo, the Mironescus, Ciolac Antic and suits. It was a pleasant meal, but anxiety was in my heart.

Ileana was not feeling very well. She looked sweet, but she has to be careful and stand as little as possible remaining in bed as much as she can.

Mignon is comfort to me and Sitta is very sweet. Lisabetha is again in a less good phase since George's return.

¹³⁴ English: agreement, convention.

¹³⁵ Jan Szembek (1881 – 1945) was a Polish diplomat, one of the most influential ones in the final years of the Second Polish Republic and a close associate of Józef Beck. He was minister in Budapest (January 1919 – 19 September 1924), Brussels (15 September 1924 – 16 February 1927) and Bucharest (16 February 1927 – 4 November 1932). After returning to Poland, he was appointed deputy secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs till the outbreak of World War II. After the invasion of Poland, he left the country on September 17, 1939, along with other members of the government. He died on July 9, 1945, in Estoril, near Lisbon.

Wednesday February 12th 1930 Cotroceni

Cold in the night but brilliant sunshine days, no snow. Awoke with the heavy anxiety on my heart. We were too happy, something had to happen. I look at my two young ones, so happy, so in love, so deliciously the picture of youth, *et mon cœur se serre*¹³⁶. Ileana is still not well but she came to breakfast, it is cozy hour when we can all talk and it was a happy hour, but now the fear in my heart makes it pain instead of joy.

[31] We arranged an excursion to Slanic to the salt mines to entertain Papa Pless. Mignon and Georgie went also and we invited Poclewski also so that the old gentleman should have company. Poc was delighted as he had actually never seen the salt mines. We lunched in the train and had tea on the way home. Each time one is deeply impressed by the extraordinary beauty of those mines, Curiously enough Mignon had also never seen them.

On our return received Barbo to tell me about his talk with the old father which was entirely unsatisfactory. He means to do nothing for his son and seemed unically pleased to get rid of him. Barbo felt indignant but also horribly anxious and the *angoisse* in my heart grew. In fact I am sick with anxiety. Mignon is a brick and stands by me. Ileana was not well. She spent the day in bed, got up only for supper but had a horrible headache. Though he was a pleasant aristocratic old fellow none of us were sorry to say good-bye to Papa Pless who left after supper whilst we, Mignon and I, went to a fine Symphony concert Russian music in which Stravinsky¹³⁷ played the piano part one of his own works. Very original and full of swing and extraordinarily rhythm.

[32] Thursday February 13th 1930 Cotroceni

Quiet morning with Mignon after usual breakfast party round my bed. Mignon is the most comforting comfortable companion imaginable. *Pleine de bon sens*¹³⁸, she has the courage of her opinion, she simplifies complications and calls a spade a spade. She can get on with everybody and directly became delightfully elder-sisterly with Lexel, giving him good advice – the advice a mother generally gives before her daughter marries, but Mignon took this burden off my shoulders.

My anxiety has not yet been taken from me, but for some reason the atmosphere was lighter today, we were gay and had a quite pleasant lunch with

¹³⁶ French: and my heart is tightening.

¹³⁷ Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky (1882 – 1971) was a Russian-born composer, pianist, and conductor. He is widely considered one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century. Since 1914 he lived abroad, mainly in France, and his last 30 years in United States where he died.

¹³⁸ French: full of common sense.

Averescu¹³⁹ and Vaitoianu¹⁴⁰ with their wives. Averescu was witty and regretted not to have met old Pless whom in his youth he had known at Kissingen¹⁴¹ where they were both paying attentions to the same lovely young girl. *Il avait de souvenirs galantes* which filled him with pleasant souvenirs. After lunch went with Mignon to several picture exhibitions, also to visit Ileana's sculptures. Tea together, then she went with the young ones to Sitta and Barbo came to me. [33] I am always afraid that he is going to come to me with bad or disturbing news, but today there was nothing. He has however generously given up a business-journey to Paris, to stand up by me if I am to face a storm. Ileana was better today and very gay. She simply adores her Lexel and each time I look at them together, such a perfect pair I send up fervent prayers that nothing should come to mar their happiness.

A cozy supper during which we tried many new records then Mignon went to Irène's for music and I for a good rub down and early bed, which never however is very early because I read during my massage.

Friday February 14th 1930 Cotroceni

Marvelous weather. I might have ridden but I had other things to do instead – had arranged to visit one of the houses offered to our young ones to buy. An exceedingly nice, well-planned even roomy house, clean, well kept, in every way civilized, but my children stick firmly to their first love, the Corbescu house. We then went to see Mickey in his little red motor at the hippodrome. He was keen [34] on driving us about it. There, I had a talk with Mr. Hill who was very upset at having been foolish in repeating, out of mistaken loyalty, a conversation he had with Lexel and which offended Sitta.

¹³⁹ Alexandru Averescu (9 March 1859 – 2 October 1938) was a Romanian marshal (1930) and populist politician. A Romanian Armed Forces Commander during the Unity War, he served as Prime Minister of three separate cabinets (as well as being *interim* Foreign Minister in January–March 1918 and Minister without portfolio in 1938). He first rose to prominence during the peasants' revolt of 1907, which he helped repress in violence. Credited with engineering the defense of Moldavia in the 1916 – 1917 Campaign, he built on his popularity to found and lead the successful Peoples Party, which he brought to power in 1920 – 1921, with backing from King Ferdinand I and the National Liberal Party (PNL), and with the notable participation of Constantin Argetoianu and Take Ionescu.

¹⁴⁰ Artur Văitoianu (1864 – 1956) was a Romanian general in Unification War who served as a Prime Minister of Romania (27 September – 28 November 1919). He was a high-ranking member of the National Liberal Party-Brătianu for much of his political career, Minister of Interior (19 January 1922 – 30 October 1923) and of Communications (30 October 1923 – 27 March 1926). In the last years of his life he was imprisoned by the communist regime.

¹⁴¹ Bad Kissingen is a German spa town in the Bavarian region of Lower Franconia and seat of the district Bad Kissingen. Situated to the south of the Rhön Mountains on the Franconian Saale river, it is one of the health resorts, which became famous as a „Weltbad” in the 19th century.

He felt afterwards that he had made a gaffe, but the mischief was done and the separation which we hoped to bridge has only become more complete to the detriment of both sides, but especially to him for whom we can now do no more but leave him to his rather dull fate. I was very motherly with him, told him that both he and Lexel had been foolish, but he must of all because by unnecessarily repeating a conversation which he had been entirely friendly on the part of Lexel who was sorry for a lonely young man just his own age, he has himself shut the door in his face, taking from us every possibility of being kind to him. My children and I were quite capable of forgiving and forgetting but Sitta not. We had called Mickey a dull boy and he had repeated this and it rankled in the mother's mind. „In principle you are quite right, I said, you cannot serve two masters, she is your master and it is her you owe absolute honesty, fidelity and loyalty, if there is a choosing between the two, undoubtedly it is the Princess you must chose, [35] but best would have been that the question should never have been raised. It was just young foolishness that made you repeat words that became quite different in the repeating. Count Hochberg was just foolish a boy as you, he had spoken purely in spirit of comradeship with a young man brought up in the same way as he. You could have told the Princess that he had asked you to come and play tennis with him, she would probably refused, but no harm would have been done. You said that he had called Mickey a dull boy who needed waking up, we do think this, but by repeating it, you have made it rankle in the mother's mind where the words stick”.

„But I have no offended you? That is what I would mind most?”

„I'm a grandmother and understand the young. I am too comprehensive to ever be offended. You meant no harm neither did that nice fair boy, you were both polish. Living with me I can easily get my young ones to forgive you, they espouse my kindly spirit. But there is no me to get the Princess out of her offence, and you poor boy are the one who pays for your foolishness. She has shut the door of our house in your face. That is what I regret. [36] We wanted to be kind to a lonely young fellow, you yourself helped to make that impossible, but don't burden your mind with the anxiety of having offended me. I am just as ready today to help you as I was yesterday, but I am not allowed to that is the pity of it. If the little King had been my child I would have made a sunny center out of him – a life-giving joy to the whole family and country, but he is his mother's not mine. She sees another ideal before her. I was not lucky with my son, perhaps she's in the right, I in the wrong. But the only thing you can do is to be loyal to her and forget all about us. You made a mistake, when one is young one just has to make one's mistakes, it is like that that one learns. You must not feel that I'll not help you whenever I can, but for

the moment you had better entirely forget about Cotroceni – it's a too pleasant time for you it seems. She shuts the door, not I. But I will also to be loyal to her. If she considers that your loyalty consists in not putting your foot inside Cotroceni, I must stand by that, hoping that better time will come”.

„You are awfully kind!” he blurted out.

„I'm a Grandmother and have along difficult life behind me but which has not killed my love for, nor comprehension for the young, you are included in this comprehension”. Of course [37] we parted friends.

I still took Mignon to our flower shop where the happy little Swiss fellow nearly split his face with his smiles. We carried off some fine roses, anemones and carnations. Had tea together a talk with Hiott „grija”¹⁴² of course, then Athanasescu. Later Sitta and I read to her and Mignon my *Pictures of Spain*.

After supper Mignon and I went to the Ventura theatre to see an amusing and very well acted play *Die Kirchenmaus*¹⁴³. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Today I saw once more the Russian general sent by Gretchen, he had reached a deadlock and I give her a new push. I must say I like him very much.

Saturday February 15th 1930 Cotroceni

Another glorious day. Received the Catholic Bishop¹⁴⁴, such a nice man, it was also about the church they are going to build to King Ferdinand memory. He has made a most marvelous series of statistic maps about Romania, it was as present to the Pope¹⁴⁵. He brought me an album with [38] the photographs of them all, a tremendous work which took him 2 years to do, and he did it single-handed. I also received Vrtejanu who had been attached to old Pless and who

¹⁴² Romanian in the original.

¹⁴³ *Șoarecele de biserică* directed by Victor Ion Popa, starring Leny Caler (1904 – 1992) played over 180 times. Ladislav Fodor (1898 – 1978) was a Hungarian novelist, playwright and screenwriter. *A Church Mouse (A templom egére)* is a comedy in three acts, adapted by James L. A. Burrell (1928).

¹⁴⁴ Alexandru Teodor Cisar (21 October 1880 – 7 January 1954) was a Romanian cleric, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Iași and archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bucharest (12 December 1924 – 7 January 1954). During 1949 – 1953, the new communist regime forced him to live at the Franciscan monastery in Orăștie. Twice, with the authorities' approval, he was able to go to Alba Iulia to ordain priests. He was allowed to return to Bucharest in August 1953 when he assisted at the opening of the International Youth Festival. He died soon after, and was buried in the Catholic chapel at Bellu cemetery, for details see Marius Oanță, *Arhiepiscopul romano-catolic Alexandru Theodor Cisar, un opozant „înverșunat” al regimului comunist*, în Florentin Olteanu ș.a. (coord.), *Opoziție și solidaritate în comunism*, Cluj-Napoca, Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2018, p. 50.

¹⁴⁵ Pius XI, born Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti (31 May 1857 – 10 February 1939), was head of the Catholic Church from 6 February 1922 to his death in 1939.

now commands the 1st Vânători Batallion His Majesty's own regiment – the one he was serving in when we married – now at Făgăraş.

Lunch by ourselves and immediately afterwards a ride on Zalamort. Astounding weather. Mignon did not ride today but came out with me and was rejoined by Mimarr and her lady-in-waiting and they walked about together whilst I had my gallop. I was proud to show off my beautiful Zalamort. Sitta was also to ride but I missed her as she came later than I.

Barbo came after tea and then Mignon and I went to a conference of Mr. Puaux upon Spain. Beautifully done, he did not tell us much about Spain, but his French is too exquisite.

After supper with Mignon to the Teatru National to hear *Les Amants de Paris*¹⁴⁶. Got up with care, we did not however appreciate the piece, it was banal and M-me Maori is not good enough actress to make her part interesting or convincing.

[39] Sunday February 16th 1930 Cotroceni

Beautiful weather continues, day already much longer. Usual family breakfast round my bed an hour we all like and where we discuss and make confessions and plans and talk over things pleasant unpleasant preparing ourselves and each other for the trials or joys of the coming day.

Excellent concert of Stravinsky music directed by Stravinsky himself. Usual Sunday lunch, Michal sitting opposite me in Nicky's chair as Nicky spends his Sunday at Snagov. After lunch first saw Haiduc, then had Crainic¹⁴⁷ and then drove to Elise Bratianu to make her a visit and to see her library arranged in memory of her husband¹⁴⁸. This is an enormous interest to her. It is to be open to students and all the books are to be geography and history in every possible branch. She has beautiful books and hopes on buying as much as she can each year. *Sie geht ganz in der Arbeit auf*¹⁴⁹, an excellent thing for, she always does with all her might whatever she puts her hand to. A cup of tea with Mignon and then down to a huge tea for many people who wanted to see Mignon, also more demands for congratulation the fiancés. [40] It was a huge party. We had the little harpist and the small violinist and afterwards the Argentine tango orchestra. This brought us up to supper, changed and after supper Mignon and I went to see Mélo¹⁵⁰ at the Ventura theatre. It was

¹⁴⁶ *Les Amants de Paris* by Pierre Frondaie (1884 – 1948) was for the first time performed in Paris, on 20 October 1927 at Théâtre Sarah-Bernhardt.

¹⁴⁷ Crainic was the dentist of the Royal Family.

¹⁴⁸ It was the finishing of the construction of the third building corps at the *Așezământul Cultural „Ion I.C. Brătianu”* (created on 17 October 1925) dedicated exclusively for the library.

¹⁴⁹ German: she dedicates herself entirely to this kind of work.

¹⁵⁰ *Mélo* is a play by Henri Bernstein which premiered on 12 March 1929 at the Théâtre du Gymnase.

excellently played, especially by the two men. It is a Bernstein¹⁵¹ piece and has had huge success everywhere. I must say we were fascinated. The woman was not attractive enough otherwise it was perfect. Is a part created by Garby Orli¹⁵². But the two man were astonishing good in the last act, the scene between the two was an out of the way good piece of acting quite astonishingly good and the principle part was played by a certain Vraca¹⁵³, who has an out of the way attractive and good-looking face. It is the first time I see him act. He is certainly first-class. The mounting and setting of the play was exceedingly good. In the last act Mignon and I began to snifle with all our might. Al the theater was blowing its nose.

I have enjoyed going out with Mignon She was keen for life and agrees with me that the Romanian stage has made huge strides. The improvement brought to it these recent years is tremendous. One can today really enjoy an evening at the theater.

[41] Monday February 17th 1930 Cotroceni

Another lovely day only windy but beautiful sunshine. Lexel leaves this morning. Ileana's joy over him is so great, her trust so complete that I tremble. There is a hideous anxiety lying at the bottom of my heart. And I have become so fond of the boy. He has so almost impossibly well-fitted into our everybody life, all the plans they are making are so happy, so entirely according to Ileana and my desires that I am afraid. There is something growling beneath. All has been tragedy lately in our lives. Will be able to live this dream?

At breakfast I spoke to them but tried to throw out a little warning, that there might be difficulties. I told Lexel that his father's attitude had made people suspicious, that I was being accused of having given my consent too quickly, so that the *Spasverderber* [spoilsport] were already setting about to try and get information in Lexel's disfavor, but Lexel did not turn a hair.

Finally we said good-bye. Ileana's eyes were large with unshed tears, but she hopes to see him so soon again.

¹⁵¹ Henri-Léon-Gustave-Charles Bernstein (1876 –1953) was a French playwright associated with Boulevard theatre. His earliest plays, including *La Rafale* (1905), *Le Voleur* (1907), *Samson* (1908), *Israël* (1908), and *Le Secret* (1913), are written in a realistic style and powerfully depict harsh realities of modern life and society. The far-right royalist *Camelots du Roi* youth organization of the *Action française* organized an anti-Semitic riot against a production of one of his plays in 1911. During the Second World War, he fled to the United States and lived in New York City at the Waldorf Astoria.

¹⁵² Probably Gaby Morlay who played the main part at the premiere in Paris.

¹⁵³ George Vraca (1896 – 1964) was one of the most famous Romanian stage and film actor.

[42] Had an audience with Mrs. Palairet the English minister's wife. She is absolutely sympathetic, young and charming. Tall, slim with large wide open, I think brown eyes, fine teeth and just a touch of shyness. A loveable woman I should say.

I then received the Spanish journalist who writes for the ABC and who is publishing my Pictures of Spain which have been enthusiastically received by the Spanish public, so much so that he wants my work of propaganda to go further and to reach South America. He has great plans of having me invited there one day to bring Romania nearer to those very prosperous republics.

To Sitta for lunch and then a good ride with Mignon, she on Montana, I on Glandevon. Our horses were fresh and gay and we enjoyed it immensely.

After tea Barbo, who came alas with the bad news I had been dreading all along. There is a black spot in Lexel's past, something difficult to live down, he was only 18 in those days, but there was scandal. What he was accused of was never absolutely proved, but there was condemnation which was not however carried out. [43] But the process exists and Maniu has got hold of the papers and of course there is going to be a storm of opposition.

My grief was such that was almost physical pain. I have not lost my trust in the boy. But how stand up against a storm of this sort and as mother and queen allow a marriage with a man whom come consider taré.

And Ileana, *my* Ileana, who believes she has found her ideal. And the worst is, I too love the boy and the association between Ileana he and I, was so perfect. He had quite quietly become my son, has stolen his way into my heart. We had become three to be happy together. They were to live here and carry on. Besides I know Ileana, she will fight tooth and nail for happiness and the more the boy will be calumniated or run down, the more ardently will she stick to him. Her dream was so terrible sweet and ideal!

The agony I suffered cannot be put into words.

Mignon and Nicky came, both of them kind comprehensive, non-condemning, but seeing the intense tragedy of the situation and with a government such as we have in power! Will they play fair? Are they not only to pleased to get me into a tragic difficulty? I felt as though my hart [44] were being pressed in an intolerable vice, as though life were being drained from me. Why this? Why this? And why did not the boy say that there was a black spot in his past, some scandal that might be raised against him that he would perhaps have to face and overcome? Did his thoughts never return to that when we spoke of his father's hints "that it was just as well that he should not live in Germany"?

What now? And how am I going to face Maniu, how Ileana? What shall I tell her? She believes he has told her everything, but that one damning black

spot he did not mention, one that even if he is innocent and that he was only caught up in bad company, damns a boy, follows him through life. And Ileana is a royal Princess, the country's child. Dare I, can I stand up if the thing become public property and give my daughter to *un homme taré* in the eyes of the world, even if he is innocent? And this in time where people are only to ready to tear the Dynasty to pieces.

What shall I do, what shall I do? We had a film afterwards. Georgie and Lisabetha came but I was suffering the tortures of hell.

[45] Tuesday February 18th 1930 Cotroceni

Day of grief, of deep unbearable, unbreathable grief. I had to see Maniu. He was decent, even tactful and I think as much as that curiously strong man can have natural feelings that he suffered with me especially in thought of Ileana's cruel disillusion and the abominable blow it is to me. Of course he cannot allow me to go on with such a marriage for Ileana. The tragedy of my interview with Maniu is simply not to be written down in words. Barbo came afterwards but for the moment I cannot stand a kind word. And Ileana... Ileana!...

Of all things we had a lunch with several people. Ileana kept looking at me with huge anxious eyes, but I could not face it all at once, wondering if I would have the courage to tell her the real truth. So I went off for my daily ride with Mignon hoping that the contact with nature would bring insight and a little peace. I had given Mignon Tohan to ride and was myself riding Kiraliff who was a real beast today and it needed some art in the handling of him. This was good for me. On my return I had to prepare for [46] going to Didine¹⁵⁴ for a conference. It was whilst I was dressing that Ileana came and she begged me not to spare her that she preferred to know the worst. Heart torn to pieces by an agony such that I thought I must die of it, I pronounced simply the words: Baby Petrescu. I knew she would understand. I knew she would understand, we had, although Lisabetha associates with him, always shut our doors to him, and quite lately in spite of many insistences, Ileana had refused to invite him to her ball.

The child took the blow standing. It was I who broke down. I never saw a braver little soldier, she was certainly worthy of my great belief in her. Of

¹⁵⁴ Alexandrina „Didina” Cantacuzino, born Pallady (1876 – 1944) married to Grigore Gh. Cantacuzino (1872 – 1960) son of Gh. Grigore Cantacuzino „the Nabob”, was a Romanian political activist, philanthropist and diplomat, one of her country's leading feminists in the 1920s and 30s, president of Societatea Ortodoxa Naționala a Femeilor Române (created in 1910). She was conferred Order *Crucea Regina Maria* cl. I on 28 August 1918.

course she does not believe it. That is her saving for the moment. She will fight for him. I must let her fight.

Thank goodness we are off in two days. This journey comes as a as a Godsend. It can even be, if necessary, prolonged. Mignon was a trump, thank God she was there. There is a steady common sense, allied to utter unselfishness about her which makes of her a rock in days of storm.

The horror was I had to be off to Didina. A conference of Herr von Mutius upon Nietzsche¹⁵⁵. Very good, in excellent [47] French, very interesting, many people, but I was like wrapped up in a veil of grief. The outside world was unreal, only my grief and Ileana's brave eyes were real, horrible insistently real and the shattering of our lovely dream "atât de frumos!"¹⁵⁶... I think of his charming face, his delightful ways, I too had made a place for him in my heart – we were so eager to be happy, too eager...

As though a beautiful dream had not been shattered, I had to dress again and go to a silly *Marionettentheater* arranged by the Italian Legation. I think I slept, my heavy eyes shut like shutters. But luckily it was dark. My excellent Mignon sat beside me *comme une planche de salut*¹⁵⁷.

And what next?

Wednesday February 19th 1930 Cotroceni

We are trying to live. But everything that was light has become dark, everything that was joy has become pain. We dare not speak of the future and

¹⁵⁵ Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844 – 1900) as a German philosopher, cultural critic, composer, poet, writer, and philologist whose work has exerted a profound influence on modern intellectual history. Nietzsche's writing spans philosophical polemics, poetry, cultural criticism, and fiction while displaying a fondness for aphorism and irony. Prominent elements of his philosophy include his radical critique of truth in favor of perspectivism; a genealogical critique of religion and Christian morality and related theory of master-slave morality; the aesthetic affirmation existence in response to the „death of God” and the profound crisis of nihilism; the notion of Apollonian and Dionysian forces; and a characterization of the human subject as the expression of competing wills, collectively understood as the will to power. He also developed influential concepts such as the *Übermensch* and the doctrine of eternal return. In his later work, he became increasingly preoccupied with the creative powers of the individual to overcome cultural and moral mores in pursuit of new values and aesthetic health. After his death, his sister Elisabeth became the curator and editor of Nietzsche's manuscripts. She edited his unpublished writings to fit her German ultranationalist ideology while often contradicting or obfuscating Nietzsche's stated opinions, which were explicitly opposed to antisemitism and nationalism. Through her published editions, Nietzsche's work became associated with fascism and Nazism. In the second half of 20th century scholars contested this interpretation, and corrected editions of his writings were soon made available.

¹⁵⁶ In Romanian in the original.

¹⁵⁷ French: as a lifeline.

our hearts are like weights. The child is heroic, she holds up her head, shake the tears from her eyes and is now [48] fighting to get her love to whitewash himself and to get others to white wash him. This attitude is by far the best, it is still life. Like her mother she never sits down under a blow. She is *really* brave. And now until she hears the worst, she is going to play the part of happy bride, because there again like me anything is better than pity.

A dark sunless, stormy day, also colder so we had to give up our last ride Mignon and I were rejoicing on.

I received the Russian gentleman (Ducky's General), lunched with Lisabetha and then we went to see poor old Denize who has had a very serious heart-attack combined with intolerable rheumatic pains in every joint. He is really *very* ill. This too is a big deep grief to me. Our excellent faithful St. Balcic. He was in great suffering although slightly better than yesterday.

Yesterday evening our little old Dr. Romalo died. From Denize we went to M-me Romalo. I and my three daughters. I brought some flowers and there we found her quietly seated beside her cross little old husband who was covered up with sheaves of carnations. She sat [49] us down beside her and we had a little whispered talk, very simple, quiet, resigned. Sorrow, but quiet sorrow because it was best that he should go¹⁵⁸. He simply flickered out. She devoted herself to him with incredible patience and loved her crabby little old husband, but she knew that he had one foot in the grave for several years.

Back home to see a very handsome horse General Mircescu has found for Mignon. I had encouraged her to look for a good horse here, which Diniță and I would ride so as to make it as perfect as mine and that then she would buy for herself. But we never imagined that he would so immediately find just the animal we want. Tall, handsome, dark brown, good mouth, perfect legs, seven years old and already *bien dressé*. We arranged that the horse should be held until my return that we would then take it in hand and if it is really all he looks she will buy it.

The rest of the afternoon was spent at this and that. Barbo came, sad things were discussed. Everything is difficult and sad and full even of danger. At nearly eight Mignon left, Sitta went with her for ten days. Haiduc for supper to talk with Nicky and then off to the theater where Lisabetha joined me for a good-bye festival for the old actor Dimitrescu etc...

[50] Thursday February 20th 1930 Cotroceni

One of those terrible last days before a departure with the madning feeling that you are leaving everything undone that you ought to do and at the

¹⁵⁸ Probably: he should do.

same time not a second to breathe in, one person after another, one thing after another and letters and papers to look through, sort, tear up. Whole pyramids of letters. Mimarr helped me and all the time that growing pain and the knowledge that Ileana does not believe it, still considers herself a bride and that her Lexel is what she thought him, and the pity of others weighing heavily on us. It was awful, and no more dear steady Mignon there to share things with.

Saw Hiott, Barbo, had several talks with Nicky and gave him as many instructions as possible, he has been very kind through all this tragic business. Lisabetha and Georgie for lunch, but all this through a mist of intolerable desperate, cruel pain.

Finally left at seven with hundreds of people, government and Regency included from the Gara de Nord.

Agony it was all agony. How differently I had planned our departure. I was given masses of wonderful flowers. The encounter with so many enquiring eyes was difficult.

Simky and Zwidy are with us. Simky is not quite easy to stand as she so terribly represents the world. We arrived at Constanța at midnight and got onto the Dacia. The sea is calm”.



Prințesa Ileana



Alexander von Hochberg in 1937