

CONSTANTIN ARGETOIANU GLIMPSES ON HIS LIFE

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Rezumat: Autoarea – pornind de la cercetarea unor informații inedite din arhivele craiovene ale familiei Argetoianu, de la memoriile omului politic și de la ceea ce s-a scris până la această dată – reconstituie principalele momente și componente ale formării și afirmării lui Constantin Argetoianu. Anii de studiu, mediul familial, prietenii, aptitudinile, posibilitățile și disponibilitățile intelectuale, trăsăturile de caracter, interesul pentru studiu și pasiunea pentru limbile străine, intrarea și afirmarea în viața politică, contextul mai larg al epocii interbelice etc. sunt câteva din aspectele semnificative, decisive ale vieții, activității și personalității sale, pe care le rezumă acest articol.

The interwar period in Romania had its political men presented either as “martyrs” of the nation or like some common thieves, forgetting that when it comes to Mother Nature, only few things keep their white or black nuance, everything maintaining rich varied grey nuances ... because otherwise the world would be bored, isn't it?

Maniu hasn't been too nice. Why? His Jesuit face made many people stay aside...still the same “sobriety” didn't prevent him from washing his hands in a Pillatian way from things on which his whole life philosophy was based on.

A lot more likable, but extremely controversial was Constantin Argetoianu, the chameleon of the interwar Romanian politics, the man that managed to show how easy it was to pass from bitter hatred to friendship and admiration, all depending on the interest.

This Oltenian boyar, loved and admired by many, hated and sworn by more, tried with the use of some delicious “Memories” to exculpate him in front of history and time. Out of them his whole essence can be seen: an extremely intelligent person, of a caustic acidity in both his thinking and his speaking, with both himself and the others, a sensitive man in his relationships to those extremely dear to him, but also a tough guy in politics and in his relationships with the others.

This paper tries to unveil some of his life's aspects. Almost nothing has been written about him, and when it has been done the historical principle *sine ira et studio* was avoided. There is no volume, historical or literary, dedicated to this interesting politician. There are the National State Archives in Bucharest and Craiova, but even these ones have documents pretty airy concerning him. Many of the necessary documents are either inaccessible or unable to be searched. This essay tries to make the Oltenian boyar much more accessible as a human being, even more vulnerable if this be possible. It tries to present him, after some good years from his death, as he was during his life: in the spot light! He seemed to be invincible ... but still... This essay tries, as much as it can, to define a clear contour of his *micro cosmos* (family, friends and his personal life) and to delimitate a spatial and temporal *macro cosmos* (descendent of an old noble family, important politician), by which he was governed or which was governed by him.

Being an Oltenian, he often tried to find Achilles' heel for each person whom he met in order to make that person like him, to destroy slowly but for good that person or just to manipulate. Jenica, as all his close friends used to call him, was born on the 3/15th of March 1871 in Craiova, having as a visiting card an entire line of illustrious ancestors. "Our name comes from Argetoaia, owned by the family until 1884-1885, when it was bought by the state and shared to the peasants"¹.

Th. Cornel, the author of the *Illustrated Biographical Dictionary* (letters A, B, C), printed in 1910-1912 in Bucharest, adds the same thing. His family had a lot of famous men, all in the service of their country. Due to his ancient family, C. Argetoianu claimed he had in his possession a document- published by Nicolae Iorga in "Arhivele Olteniei" in 1922 in which *Manole Voievod*, who was nowhere else proved to be a hospodar of Walachia, thanks his son-in-law, Costache Argetoianu. It's the only document in which this reign is mentioned and this is what makes it so important.

The General Ion Argetoianu, Constantin Argetoianu's father, married Constanța Otetelișanu, descendent of one of the oldest Oltenian family, too. Both his parents played both an important part in their child's education, but also in the life of their country and of Craiova.

All we know about general **Ion Argetoianu** is that he was related to some other boyar families such as Rahtivan, Otetelișanu, Obedeanu, Buzești, and Cantacuzino. After graduating in Bucharest, Paris and Metz, his military career had a continual ascendance, based on three life principles: organisation, discipline, moral. "In his whole life he hadn't done a single compromise, neither with the others, nor with himself".

In the Independence War, major I. Argetoianu took part in the attacks on Plevna and Smârdan, as sub-chief of General Staff of the VIth Division (commanded by colonel Cerchez). Due to his memoirs, we know the truth concerning Osman Pasha's capitulation, and also the strategically mistake made by the Romanians.

In 1895 he's a general inspector of the military engineers, then a brigade general and army group commander. He was also Minister of war (between March and October 1912) in the conservatory government lead by Titu Maiorescu. Retired, he entered the militant politics, becoming leader of the Conservative Party for Dolj, vice-president of the Chamber (twice) and of the Senate. Among his parliamentary initiatives we can mention: **Proposal on the organisation of the agricultural county unions**, developed in the Senate's session of 20 February 1912.

His mother, **Constanța Argetoianu**, was a well known intellectual character. Of her multiple cultural preoccupations we can mention her notebooks full of historical and cultural notes gathered in her voyages through the world, as well as her laborious work as a translator, illustrated by J. Ramboson, *Maternal Education Following the Laws of Nature*, translation by Mrs. Constanța Argetoianu, Craiova, 1877 (111 pages) and Miss Sauvan, *Normal Course for Primary Teachers or Relative Directions for the Psychological, Moral, Intellectual Education in Primary Schools*, processed in Romanian by Adelina Olteanu, Constanța Argetoianu, Craiova, 1873 (144 pages).

In „Arhivele Olteniei” of 1937, M. Theodorian, Carada wrote that **Constanța Argetoianu**, C. Argetoianu's mother, was an intelligent woman, who wanted to enlighten her peasants, to be a mother for all of them, not only for her boy.

On a maternal line – brothers after his mother of his grandfather Otetelișanu – Constantin Argetoianu was related to General Nicolae Haralamb, the famous plotter in Cuza's dethronement in 1866. Still apart from this aspect, from general Haralamb he had another memory: he changed his civil status, changing his name from *Ion*, the name the parents had decided to put, to *Constantin*, declaring him to be a girl!!!

Born on 3/15 March 1871, Constantin Argetoianu entered this world under a pseudo name!?! The truth is that this story seems to be hilarious. And it really is! Only that it shows the deficiencies of a system, but also his predestination of being what he was.

Any way, Argetoianu started his life under the best auspices: he was taken abroad by his mother to be an apprentice at the school of life, but also in the epoch's parlours. His mother wanted to make him a *zoon politikon*, a person who knows how to manage himself and every situation, even if this meant "doing my needs" in the big stations, where the stops were longer. The school of life was of course supported also with the real one, more prosaic. At the beginning his mother was the one to teach him at Breasta. He didn't remember where he had passed his first three exams. Only the fourth one was a serious one as he passed it at the Obedeanu School, in Craiova, with a lot of emotions, examined by his father's former teacher.

Then, in 1881, the Argetoianu family settled in Bucharest... somehow for ever. Even if Breasta remains in his memory as a blessed memory, Bucharest will be from now on the cradle of his childhood and even of his maturity and also of his betrayed old age. At the age of 10, Argetoianu has as a governess „*a kind and maniac Swiss lady*” who „*used to give me lessons of French, German and geography and used to take me out for a daily walk*”².

In the spirit of his epoch, the small chap receives as tutors N. Bogdan and Lacroix, famous figures at the time in the capital. Whereas Mr. Bogdan was a mediocre teacher, Mr. Lacroix was a refined one, a Latinist...not very good at French even though that was he supposed to teach.

Of his childhood period we can mention some pranks that are the delight of his "Memoirs", such as: printing the „Vespa”, a weekly paper that with other children of his age was meant to be full of spirit, the theft of an electric street lamp from the Romanian Athenaeum or the theft of some rare books from the Romanian Academy, which were later sold for small prices to the second-hand bookseller....These are only some of the extra curricular activities of the young Oltenian boy.

Still his parents didn't quite let him do whatever he wanted to. The teenager Argetoianu prepared the I- III high school classes at home, passing the first two classes at „Matei Basarab” high school, and for the third at the „Sfântul Sava” high school, where he was about to fail in French due to his tutor, whom as mentioned above, used to “mingle” French.

Meanwhile, as in 1884 appeared, in Bucharest, the first model middle school which used to function as a society – „Sf. Gheorghe” High School – C. Argetoianu is registered to frequent the day courses. The school was directed by Ștefan Hepites, who had an entire army of teachers, each one famous in his domain: Grigore Tocilescu (history), Constantin Istrati (chemistry), Dimitrie Ollănescu-Ascanio and Duiliu

Zamfirescu (Romanian literature and grammar), Sabba Ștefănescu (natural sciences). At the „Sf. Gheorghe” High School Argetoianu graduated the IV-VI classes, always as the best pupil, even though, he himself admitted, not to learn by heart.

Among the family’s friends we also have Titu Maiorescu, the person who was greatly to influence the life of the future politician. When he was a teenager, Argetoianu hears one of Maiorescu’s courses on metaphysics. He is so impressed by the ideas, but more precisely by the understanding of the fact that he was the youngest in the audience, that he decided that this happening was meant to change his life and he is supposed to change other people’s destiny. He decided that he was to revolution the world, that he was a new Messiah but in order to change the others he had to change himself first. He started reading Marx’s books, he devoured everything that was in fashion at the time concerning this political orientation...he even made the attempt of “transforming” his life through the stubbornness with which he wanted to leave school in order to be able to dedicate himself to his new preoccupations.

The bad thing is that he thought of doing that the moment his baccalaureate was coming, exam that he passed due to Maiorescu’s intervention and to his family name, but also to the shame he had to face when his parents had to accept their son’s craziness, who they thought to be very wise. He learned and passed it (indeed with the greatest grades in the whole Bucharest), but the results were seen later on: he became one of the most fervent enemies of the communism, doctrine which he used to admire in his youth. The acme of irony is that, if it hadn’t destroyed him when he was young, it managed to do it when he was old. The salvation in his youth was given precisely by his age: the attractions of the balls and of the bourgeois life were in the end more powerful than his childish but dangerous dreams.

He managed to pass his baccalaureate and left, as it was the custom in the epoch, for Paris, the city in which he would become a **man**. He manages to do what no other person could normally do: graduated three universities, passed 177 exams, becoming thus doctor in medicine, and licensed in Law and Human Sciences. Even though he took advantage of his departure from home, “Jean” still preserved a warm and affectionate relationship with his parents, especially his mother. Simple but full of love things make his correspondence with his mother an endless line of funny situations or of sweet remembrance, just like he complained that because of the formalin scent he was unable to suck his fingers, after having eaten caviar.

In another letter, complaining about boredom, with a characterising cynicism, he wishes he had the opportunity to assist the guillotination of several friends, instead of other means of amusement.

When he had his last exam, he wrote to his mother that there was a God for ignorants as well as for the drunk- he passed his exam with *extremely satisfactory* and he was claiming he hadn’t known quite everything.

All these letters, more precisely their writing manner do nothing but to present once more his attachment to his mother, and the biting irony that would later be his visiting card.

Then came maturity...he became a diplomat, career whose ierarchy levels – attaché, secretary, prime secretary, counsellor – he climbed in Romania’s Legations in

Constantinople, Rome, Vienna...and then according to the epoch's demands he tried to find a good, gentle wife. Still if in diplomacy everything seemed to have worked easily for him, in his private life – his marriage- there was a problem, especially because the girl whom he had chosen to marry suffered from a great emotional instability, even though she came from a noble family as a unique daughter. This **Clementa Tallevici** had an illustrious origin, but also naivety specific to her age. We don't know yet what project could have separated her from Jean, the man whom she apparently she was in love with. Argetoianu the father wrote: „*nous nous sommes tous faits illusions voyant combine la jeune fille était aimable (...) pour Jean et (...) une affection naissante et réelle et Jean commençait de plus en plus à l'aimer. Quelle fatalité chérie que les parents de la jeune fille, qui m'ont avoué, connaissaient depuis trois ans ce projet n'aient pas parlé plutôt! (...)Quelle fatalité que cette jeune fille, ne pouvant avoir de l'affection et de la confiance pour ses parents, se fait laissée entortillée par des misérable intrigants, qui l'ont si bien prise dans leurs filets qu'elle les croit gens honnêtes et de cœur et qu'elle se sente obligée de se sacrifier à leur bonheur, de peur que toute une famille ne ce perdre à cause d'elle. Et pourtant son estime, la confiance et son affection pour Jean doivent être assez implantés dans son cœur puisque avant de se séparer samedi soir elle a été malheureuse, et lui a dit qu'elle regrette ...*”³.

Even if this situation was not a very pleasant one for him, the man inside of Jean was stronger. Still the father was wrong about this relationship, which he considered to be a passing one due to the girl, accusing her parents from lack of cautionness, but also for a lack of education which could have prevented such a situation. On the 17th of June 1897 the two young people were married. The civil certificate states that their marriage was registered as *No. 111/97*.

This marriage proved to be a huge mistake. But it resulted in a child, Ioana Maria Elena, a child who opened her eyes in a house where suspicions were a rule. The fact is that the two spouses broke up (the reasons of this must be still searched for).

But let's not go too far yet. For now the two spouses are happily married, enjoying to the full the benefits of the diplomatic life, where Argetoianu learned to obtain whatever he wanted. He learned that everything and everybody had a price, but also that he was an influent man who had what to learn on, he learned how to be even more slippery than he had been before in order to be the one who makes the rules, not to obey them. The fact that Argetoianu was very confident is proved by this letter sent to his father, a letter in which he asked his father to obtain a place for him:

«There are no available places. **Denial:** I do not demand the **place, but the rank**, as held for a long time ago, since the conservative government, by M.M. Zamfiresco, Stavridi, Langa-Rascano, Penesco, Carp, Olanesco, Bibesco et Jacavache (attachés) who **have the rank without having the place. Objection:** We cannot have an exam for one single candidate (...). **Other arguments. I am a chic character, I am rich, I could enter the politics and disturb the government etc. etc.**»⁴.

Well, even though these words might have seemed as mere talk, they proved to be a prophecy. His diplomatic career was not the purpose but the starting point towards other levels. And Argetoianu knew that very well.

Even though he had studied medical school, law and lettres, Constantin Argetoianu proved to be passionate by his people's history, even though this was not sometimes an easy job to do, especially that he used to read books or articles – the Transylvanian *Memorandum*, *The Tribune* in Sibiu – that the international diplomacy found dangerous, banning them in consequence.

On the other hand, C. Argetoianu acted as an intermediary between the cultural Viennese market and the Romanian Academy Library in order to acquire some manuscripts of an unexpressable value. Apart from these official duties, the Oltenian boyar he enriched his private collection of books and art objects.

Still this man decided to enter the politics despite his father's objections, just like he himself had prophesied to disturb the troubled waters of the Romanian politics. It was the fall of 1913, and Argetoianu was 42, but also a rich experience in the international relations. The choice was not a difficult one: he was a boyar, so he followed his father to the Conservator Party, whose illustrious names at the time were P.P. Carp, N. Filipescu, Al. Marghiloman and Titu Maiorescu.

Due to his logic and clarity with which he used to express his ideas, but also to the prestige he had, Argetoianu became very quickly the president of the Party's Study Circle. He would lead all kind of sessions on historical themes and not only. He wrote in 1913 **Our great property and the expropriation**, a brochure in which he tried to present his ideas, but mostly a work of whose clarity made even the opponents of this party to foresee whom they were against to. He entered the electoral campaign for the National Constituent Assembly, where he became a senator (January 1914). He would shock everybody when he went against the flow in the case concerning the agrarian reform, when he voted against it in Iasi, 1917, precisely because he wanted to preserve the great boyar property. He washed his mistake years later, in 1933, when he struggled and obtained the law of agricol duties' conversion, unbelievable... in peasants' favour.

During the war, Argetoianu, the politician, realises what way the wind of change was heading and so he abandoned the party who had promoted him in order to be among the founders of the People's League, presided by the Mărășești winner, General Alexandru Averescu. The new political unit started to be an entity when Al. Averescu had formed a new government, government in which, as Justice Minister, C. Argetoianu lead the delegation to the peace preliminaries in Buftea, February 1918.

His real political career develops though during the interwar period, period in which he was able to demonstrate his versatility, but also his intelligence, that made him such a controversial image in the epoch. He passed through numerous political parties – P.N.L., UNIUNEA AGRARA or F.R.N. – but each time he abandoned the ship before it sank, this thing making him a real barometer for the top parties. He had carefully chosen his political company, a man who din't mind the mincing airs, but followed his instincts, which seemed to be his be guardian. He was also a big witty joker, no matter the circumstances in which he was. An example may be the reply given to V. Madgearu on the 14th of July 1921, while Argetoianu was comfortably seated on his ministerial bench. They were talking about the nationalisation of the „Reșița” factory. Madgearu came at the tribune, with a large number of files. Argetoianu, terrified by the perspective of a 2-3 hours interpelation, vexed him by whispering „bite my....”. Ofended, Madgearu repeated

these words aloud⁵. Of course, he shocked everybody, but this only proves his unmistakable style.

He was the one who tried to destroy communism, the one who understood that each kind of extremism was nothing but an oppression form, this despite the fact that he was an authoritative character. He became a minister when others refused this dignity because they were afraid or accepted it only to get rich. He was a versatile, flexible man that understood that a man may be under his times, but that time may also be sealed by courageous men. This is why Argetoianu – „the moral monster” as named by M. Manoilescu in his „Memoirs” - was among the first to accept the king’s return, even though it was more than obvious that this was not a constitutional act and that it meant the dethronement of Mihai. He was the one who understood Dudaia’s place in the King’s life and, even if he was disgusted by her, he accepted and tolerated her, even though he always doubted her. He’s the one to support the King’s actions, even when this one promotes the authoritative regime. Argetoianu himself was an authoritative character... but above all he knew very well what subversive propaganda meant and what it was done against Romania. The Romanian National Archives in Craiova have one of the Romanian Francmasonic reports that speak about manipulation and the way in which this was done in favour or against the Romanians.

He’s the one to present Iorga in a very unfavourable light, showing the world that the illustrious scientist was very easy to manipulate, a puppet. It is already known the fact that Iorga used to sign all kind of documents and statements in blank, but also the animosity between the two politicians. We also know the love-hatred relationship between Brătianu and Argetoianu or between Maniu and Argetoianu, people with whom he was forced to interact on the political scene, people whom he had eclipsed, but in whose shadow he had lead his activity.

Was he “sensitive” to loyalty acts? Not really! In the archives, there are hundreds of letters received from fans- who tried to make him their idol- or from his detractors, who had threatened him with death. He rarely answered back. He had the charisma of a genuine politician, but this was only the unseen face of the Moon, if we may say so. What is shocking is that in his personal archive there are rarely found letters addressed to friends, people he loved, people with whom to discuss something else but politics. There is only one letter of Nicolae Carp, son of the famous P.P. Carp, to Argetoianu in which the first expressed his condolences on Constanța Argetoianu’s death, the one single letter in which compassion speaks louder than the political interests⁶.

Most of the times the press wanted him in jail each time he was involved in a certain business no matter how dirty or clean they were (he had shares at more than 40 factories – timber, oil or paper- and commercial or private banks – Cressoloveni, Marmorosch Blank, Banca Comercială – in most cases being a member in the administration board), but only on few occasions they wrote about his charity work. This didn’t end up in the press unless the author wanted to be liked by Mr. Jenica. He was not the type who encouraged this kind of things because he was never thrown in a dark corner of the political scene. He did some charity who deserved to be mentioned particularly because he didn’t forget what he had learnt. There are in the Argetoianu Fund at the State Archives in Bucharest some notebooks on which he was marking different

persons to whom he gave money, without asking for something in exchange-widows or poor girls who wanted to get married.

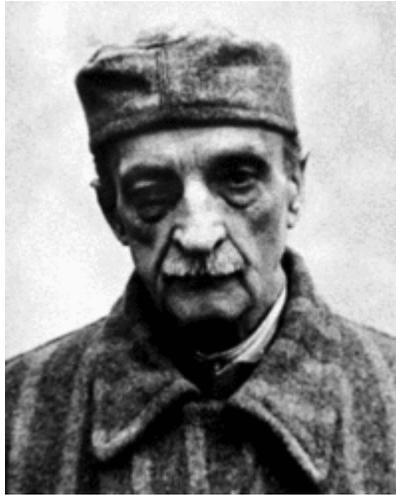
He also built a whole new hospital in Craiova, a modern one, with all kind of facilities... an unusual thing for a minister at that time, precisely an Internal Affairs one, not a Health Minister.

His education as a doctor, as well as his mother's influence was stronger. Argetoianu had already faced the deficiencies of the Romanian sanitary system during the Balkan wars, when in their struggle with the cholera the only thing they had was a medicine meant for uterus hemorrhages. These things marked him and made him realise that if he wanted to wash his sins in politics he could do it this way.

As shown above, Argetoianu was never lead by money, even though in his turn he had made some burden-some businesses, like any other Romanian politician, businesses that made him loved by some and hated by others. What was leading him was a certain vanity with multiple aspects. We don't know precisely when he had been initiated in the masonry either when he had been a student or when he had been a diplomat. Masons are not by definition obsessed with money but with power, the desire to controle everything in hand, and if money is a method to achieve it, that's for the better, if not....there are other solutions, but we have to be very clever to see them. And Argetoianu – Great Master and Great Patron of the Romanian Masonic Order (despite these, Petre Țuțea claimed that, when asked if he was a mason, Argetoianu would have answered „Come on...I've been, it's nothing”) – was one of the most important pillars in the Romanian masonry, the man who knew everything before that thing actually happened.

He understood the intimate thinks hidden beneath the surface of the world he lived in. He understood to make compromises with the others and with himself. This is why in 1933 the law of agricol debts conversion passed, the law that changed the ogre of 1917 into a peasants' father. Many have blamed him, especially among the banks' owners, many peasants loved himArgetoianu ignored all these, assuming his mistakes. He was many times threatened by death, the most famous moment being related to Max Goldstein⁷, a fanatic communist who tried to kill one of the biggest obstacles in the communists' path, a Jew who after a month placed a bomb in the Senate, managing to kill a minister and two deputies. Argetoianu went on.

He was a minister⁸, even prime minister⁹, mason, husband and father ...but in the last two cases there was a bit of malchance. His first marriage ended in a divorce between 1919 and 1921, but not before its share of scandal (first his mother-in-law's suicide, then his wife's emotional instability), the second one having as a protagonist Mrs. Valentina Boambă in 1922. As a father, he had to see his daughter passing through the same torments of a divorce and struggling to keep their fortune when he escaped to Switzerland.



C. Argetoianu în închisoare

He came back in 1946, apparently to form a government. But it seems he had just wanted to die in his country, as he was convinced he was about to die and from this perspective everything seemed the same to him. He had been warned by his mason friends not to return but he had done this because he didn't want to die away from his homeland. This decision was fatal for him. He didn't have any political support and was left at the discretion of the new power. Pamfil Șeicaru said that he descended all the steps of misery. In 1948 he was begging afraid that somebody might recognize him and instead of a charity he might have received a swearing. He had to see his daughter struggling to rise her children alone and poor. He had to live the tragic humiliation of being arrested by the communists (even if he once more defied them) when he was 82 years old, after a harsh prostate operation, he was forced to eat salty food only to admit things he hadn't done for a cup of water, he, the one who had defied destiny so many times before. He knew he would be killed, but still returned home, not realising that he had to pay such a difficult tribute: he died only in 1952 after some sources and in 1955 after another ones¹⁰. He died at Sighet, alone and forgotten, without even a grave. Not even his descendents know where to put a candle in his memory.

This is, fragmentary the story of a man loved and hated by life, one of the most impressive memorialists of the interwar period, a chameleon in whose case the colours turned like a boomerang.

NOTE:

1. Constantin Argetoianu, *Pentru cei de mâine, amintiri din vremea celor de ieri*, vol.I, București, Editura Humanitas, 1991, p. 7-8.

2. *Ibidem*, p. 60

3. Letter of I. Argetoianu to his wife, from 13/25 mai.

4. Letter of C. Argetoianu to his father, from 7/20 October 1900, D.J.A.N. Craiova, fond Argetoianu, VII/2: «*Il n'y a pas de places. - Réfutation: je ne demande pas la place, mais le grade, ainsi qu'on la donné de tout temps et depuis le gouvernement conservateur à M.M. Zamfiresco, Stavridi, Langa-Rascano, Penesco, Carp, Olanesco, Bibesco et Jacavache (attachés) ont le grade sans avoir la place. Objection: Soit. Mais on ne peut pas faire d'examen*

pour un seul (...). Autre arguments. Je suis un type chic, j'ai de la fortune, je pourrais me jeter dans la politique et embêter le gouvernement etc. etc. ».

5. I. Scurtu, *Prăbușirea unui mit*, apud

<http://www.ictnet.ro/history/archive/mi2000/current3/mi24.html>

6. D.N.A.J. Craiova, fund C. Argetoianu, *Letter of N. Carp to Argetoianu*, dated „le 28 juillet 1934”, II/ 29.

7. “Jurnalul National”, 11 November 2004.

8. Minister in **cabinet Averescu**, as it follows: 29/01-4/03/1918 Justice, 13/03-13/06/1920 Finances, 13/03/1920- 17/12/1921 Internal Affairs; **B. Știrbey** (4/06- 21/06/1927) Agriculture and Domains, as well as ad-interim Industry and Commerce; **I.I.C. Brătianu** (21/06-23/11/1927) Agriculture and Domains; **Vintilă Brătianu** (27/11/1927-10/11/1928) Agriculture and Domains; **N. Iorga** (18/04/1931- 6/06/1932) Finances, ad-interim Foreign Affairs, and from 7/05/1931 Internal Affairs; **Miron Cristea** (10/02- 29/03/1939) Industry and Commerce.

9. Prime minister between 28/09- 23/11/1939.

10. Stelian Neagoe in the Preface to the *Memoirs* of C. Argetoianu.