

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BRITISH, AUSTRIAN, AND GREEK CONSULAR NETWORKS IN THE ROMANIAN DANUBE PORTS (1850–1900)

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Abstract: *In the second half of the 19th century, a growing interest from prominent European actors in the strategic and economic potential of the Romanian Danube ports became increasingly evident. During a period marked by significant events for the Romanian territories (the Union of the Principalities, Romania's Independence), two major European powers, England and Austria, as well as an "aspirant" to regional power status, Greece, operationalised extensive consular representation networks in the Romanian Danube ports. Through these networks, they protected the interests of their own citizens on Romanian territory and exerted influence to promote their political and economic objectives. Between 1850 and 1900, a total of 212 consular officials from the three states were active in the Romanian Danube ports, namely: England – 25, in 7 cities; Austria – 66, in as many cities; and Greece – 121, in 14 cities. The richest consular representation of the three states was recorded in the Maritime Danube ports, especially in Galați and Brăila.*

Keywords: consular network, Romanian ports, Danube, Black Sea, Great Britain, Austria, Greece.

Rezumat: *Analiza comparativă a rețelelor consulare britanice, austriece și grecești în porturile românești de pe Dunăre (1850-1900). În a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea, a devenit din ce în ce mai evident interesul crescând al actorilor europeni proeminenți pentru potențialul strategic și economic al porturilor românești de pe Dunăre. Într-o perioadă marcată de evenimente semnificative pentru teritoriile românești (Unirea Principatelor, independența României), două mari puteri europene, Anglia și Austria, precum*

și o țară „aspirantă” la statutul de putere regională, Grecia, au operaționalizat rețele extinse de reprezentare consulară în porturile românești de pe Dunăre. Prin intermediul acestor rețele, ele au protejat interesele propriilor cetățeni pe teritoriul României și au exercitat influență pentru a-și promova obiectivele politice și economice. Între 1850 și 1900, un total de 212 funcționari consulari din cele trei state au fost activi în porturile românești de la Dunăre, și anume: Anglia – 25, în 7 orașe; Austria – 66, în tot atâtea orașe; și Grecia – 121, în 14 orașe. Cea mai numeroasă reprezentare consulară a celor trei state a fost înregistrată în porturile maritime dunărene, în special în Galați și Brăila.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and motivation of the study – I have undertaken a comparative analysis of the consular networks of England, Austria, and Greece, which operated in the Romanian Danube ports in the second half of the 19th century, as an expression of political and economic interest in the geostrategic potential of the Romanian space. I selected these states as the subject of study, considering England and Austria's status as major European powers, as well as Greece's aspiration to regional power status.

The scientific novelty lies in highlighting the interest of the aforementioned European actors in the geopolitical and economic significance of Romanian ports, as expressed through the operationalisation of consolidated consular networks as a lever of influence and a means of promoting their own agendas within Romanian space.

The historiographical foundation of the study consists primarily of unpublished documents from the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, included in the collection titled "Foreign Representatives in Romania – Personnel of Foreign Legations and Consulates," organised chronologically and alphabetically by the names of foreign officials. This category of data has been supplemented with information from specialized works by Romanian authors (Alexandru Duțu, Paul Cernovodeanu, Ela Cosma, Cristian Constantin, Ștefan Petrescu, Leonidas Rados) and foreign authors (James Southern, David Wilson, Engelbert Deusch), periodicals relevant to the topic of the study (Foreign Office Lists, Bucharest Yearbook 1891–1892), and web sources.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A dynamic succession of events with particular relevance for Southeastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Black Sea marked the second half of the 19th

century. This region became a focal point for a complex confluence of interests and rivalries among the major powers (the British Empire, the Tsarist Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburg Empire, France, and Germany), as well as among emerging states asserting themselves after gaining independence (Greece and Italy). The reference period witnessed several phases of realignment of spheres of influence in this part of Europe, which held strategic value for all significant geopolitical developments across the continent. Two major events stand out as best illustrating these transformations and having a considerable impact on the Romanian space: the Crimean War (1853–1856), which laid the groundwork for the Union of the Romanian Principalities, and the Russian-Turkish War (1877–1878), following which Romania gained its independence. Both highlighted once again the strategic potential of the Danube and the Black Sea, around which numerous foreign interests gravitated. These interests manifested themselves in both economic and political dimensions, the former primarily through the trade-navigation nexus and the latter through diplomatic and consular representation. Consular activity on the Danube and the Black Sea served as an effective tool for monitoring the presence of rival states in the region. At the end of the Crimean War, the Treaty of Paris (1856) brought about significant changes in the Danube's role as a channel of international mobility. The principles of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna were extended to the Danube, whose status remained fragmented, primarily due to rivalry between non-riparian Western powers and riparian empires over differing interpretations of cabotage liberalisation at inland ports. This rivalry was closely tied to the position of navigation companies, which, whether privately owned or state-run, became increasingly important instruments of economic and political expansion. Major transformations followed Romania's attainment of state independence in the Danube as a channel of international mobility and a vector linking Romania's space to the world. Two key developments emerged: the integration of Dobruja into the Romanian state and massive investments in port infrastructure at Constanța, which gradually made it Romania's principal maritime port; and the construction of a dense railway network that spread across the entire country, intensifying competition with river transport.¹

The British Empire (England), the Habsburg Empire (Austria), and the Kingdom of Greece stood out for their active presence in the Romanian ports along

¹ Ionel Constantin Mitea, *Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830 – 1939* [Navigation companies at the Mouth of the Danube 1830 -1939], Târgoviște, Editura Cetatea de Scaun, 2022, p. 9 – 10.

the Danube and the Black Sea, both economically – through trade and navigation companies – and politically, through the operationalization of consular networks, which served as effective mechanisms for promoting their own interests in the region. In the second half of the 19th century, the rise of navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea, combined with a substantial increase in commercial transactions, led to growing foreign interest in Romanian ports.

CONSULAR NETWORKS OF GREAT BRITAIN, AUSTRIA, AND GREECE IN THE PORT CITIES OF THE ROMANIAN DANUBE (1850 – 1900)

Consular activity is complex, involving two fundamental attributes: ensuring the protection of one's own citizens abroad and promoting the economic and commercial interests of the accrediting (sending) states. The Romanian space has been of particular interest to European states since the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Throughout the 19th century, most European states had consular representatives in Romanian cities: Tsarist Russia, France, British Empire, the Habsburg Empire, the Ottoman Empire, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands. In what follows, we will analyse the consular representation networks operationalised in the Romanian Danube ports in the latter half of the 19th century by England, Austria, and Greece. We will consider key aspects such as how consular representatives of the three states first appeared in Romanian cities, in relation to their regional interests; the number of consular officials who were active in Romanian ports, and the period during which their presence is documented. We will also highlight a few biographical and professional details of consular representatives who stood out through their specific activities, including their training and professional experience, fluency in multiple foreign languages, presence in international forums, multiple missions carried out in Romanian cities, and active involvement in promoting the economic interests of the sending states or their own communities residing in the Romanian space.

In the three annexes accompanying this study, we will present, in tabular form, the following categories of data: the full names of all British, Austrian, and Greek officials who were active in Romanian ports; the date of their first recorded assignment and the city or cities in which they served. For some individuals, we have indicated multiple name variants, depending on how they were recorded in the consulted sources, taking into account transliteration elements and the legibility of the content in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs archives. The differences between the figures presented in the body of the study

and those in the annexes result from the fact that some consular officials were active in more than one Romanian city.

GREAT BRITAIN

Brief historical overview

Great Britain's diplomatic and consular representation was formally established in 1782 with the creation of the Foreign Office – an administrative body based in London, separate from the Diplomatic Service, which encompassed the missions and consular offices abroad.² The beginning of the 19th century found Great Britain in a position of inferiority in terms of diplomatic and consular representation compared to rival states such as Russia, France, the Ottoman Empire, and the Habsburg Empire. London's growing interest in the Danube and the Black Sea's geostrategic potential became evident in the 1830s, with a significant increase in trade and the strategic importance of the ports of Galați and Braila.³

The first British consular official in Bucharest, appointed in the year 1800, was Francis Summerers, the half-brother of the Russian consul in Bucharest. Summerers carried out specific duties until 1814, when he was replaced by William Wilkinson, the author of a work dedicated exclusively to the Romanian Principalities (*An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia*).⁴ After 1829, British trade with the Romanian Principalities acquired institutionalised structures, which required reinforcing commercial representation with political representation. In this context, two vice-consulates were established in the most active commercial centres, the ports of Galați and Braila. Charles Cunningham (1835) and Lloyd St. Vincent (1837) were appointed as their heads.⁵

² Broadly in James Southern, *A Class of its Own? Social Class and the Foreign Office, 1782-2020*, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, p. 16 – 19, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f722753d3bf7f47a5587771/Class_and_the_Foreign_Office.pdf (accessed on 25.06.2024).

³ Ionel Constantin Mitea, *Un secol de reprezentare consulară britanică în orașele românești (1834-1941)* [A century of British consular representation in Romanian cities (1834-1941)], "ACROSS. Journal of Interdisciplinary Cross-border Studies", Vol. 8, 2024, no. 5, p. 50.

⁴ Alexandru Duțu, *Anglo-Romanian Cultural relations in a phase of transition*, in Gh. Buzatu, Al. Pascu (Eds.), *Anglo-Romanian relations after 1821*, Iași, Editura Academiei Române, 1983, p. 184.

⁵ Paul Cernovodeanu, *The Anglo-Romanian Economic Relations 1821 – 1856*, in Gh. Buzatu, Al. Pascu (Eds.), *Anglo-Romanian relations after 1821*, Iași, Editura Academiei Române, 1983, p. 71.

The British consular network in the Romanian port cities (1850–1900)

During the period under focus, the British consular network consisted of 25 officials present in 7 Romanian Danube ports, as follows:

- Giurgiu: 2 (1855–1859);
- Braila: 5 (1856–1899);
- Ismail and Reni: 2 (1857–1860);
- Calafat: 1 (1857);
- Tulcea: 2 (1859–1862);
- Sulina: 4 (1860–1894);
- Galați: 9 (1876–1895).⁶ (Annexe no. 1)

The interests of London's consular representation prioritised the main ports of the Maritime Danube; consequently, the majority of British officials were active in Galați and Braila. Great Britain appointed consular officials in the Danube ports during the period 1855–1895.

Noteworthy British consular officials in their specific activities

Charles Fiott Barker served in the Royal Navy, undertaking consular missions in Egypt (1828–1834) and Syria (1839–1842). Between 1859 and 1862, he held the position of Vice-Consul in Tulcea.⁷

John Stokes was a career military officer, serving as an engineer officer. On August 16, 1856, he was appointed representative of Great Britain for issues related to the Danube, and on December 28, 1861, he was appointed Consul in Sulina, with jurisdiction over the Danube Delta.⁸

⁶ Statistics highlighted from the following sources: The Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fund *Foreign representatives in Romania. The Personnel of Foreign Legations and Consulates* (following, **AMFAR, Fund Representatives**), file 4 (England)/Repres. A2, A5, B1, B2, B4, B17, C9, C12, C13, C14, D1, D2, D3, D12, B2, B3, B5, B8, H4, H5, H6, H7, H22, J1 K2, K4, L3, L31, M1, M2, M5, M8, M9, M12, M13, M14, M15, M16, M18, M20, N2, N5, O1, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P12, P14, R4, R7, S3, S4, S9, S10, T1, V1, V2, V3, V4, V11, V14, V17, W18, W23; David Wilson, *List of British Consular Officials in the Ottoman Empire and its former territories, from the sixteenth century to about 1860*, [https://www.levantineheritage.com/pdf/List_of_British_Consular_Officials_Turkey\(1581-1860\)-D_Wilson.pdf](https://www.levantineheritage.com/pdf/List_of_British_Consular_Officials_Turkey(1581-1860)-D_Wilson.pdf), p. 24 – 25.

⁷ *The Foreign Office List, forming a complete British Diplomatic and Consular Handbook With maps, showing where Her Majesty's Ambassadors, Ministers, Consuls, and others, are resident abroad; together with a list of foreign diplomatic and Consular representatives resident within the Queen's Dominions. January 1865*, https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_YtI9AAAacAAJ/page/n43/mode/1up, p. 56.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 149.

Percy Sanderson was appointed Consul in Galați in 1876.⁹ In January 1882, the office in Galați was elevated to the level of Consulate General for the entire Kingdom of Romania, with Sanderson being promoted to Consul General.¹⁰ In 1881, he was appointed chargé d'affaires in Bucharest and in 1882, commissioner for Danube navigation. Between 1894 and 1907, he served as Consul General in New York.¹¹

Henry Trotter, a career military officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel, was appointed Consul General in Galați in 1894.¹² In 1898, he served as chargé d'affaires of the British Legation in Bucharest.¹³

William John Norcop was appointed Vice-Consul in Braila on April 2, 1899. In December 1900, upon his leave, he handed over his duties to the Greek Consul in Galați, Spiliotaki. This arrangement was made possible following an agreement between the governments of London and Athens.¹⁴

AUSTRIA

Brief historical overview

The year 1830 marked the beginning of the Habsburg Empire's supremacy in navigation on the Danube through the Danube Steam Navigation Company – *Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft* (DDSG). After 1840, Vienna became a formidable competitor on the Black Sea through the Austrian Lloyd Company, which provided the most profitable connection between the Danube ports and the major world ports (via Istanbul). Both companies had agencies and representatives in all Danube ports and at the Black Sea, and DDSG operated a shipyard in Turnu Severin. Throughout the 19th century, both DDSG and Austrian Lloyd benefited from significant subsidies from the Viennese government. The activities of the DDSG–Austrian Lloyd duo, which consistently promoted Austrian economic interests on the Danube and the Black Sea, were complemented by the implementation of an extensive consular network that ensured political representation and influence in Romanian ports. The early

⁹ AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 4/Repres. S3, *Note 133/1876, Great Britain Legation - Bucharest*

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, *Note 4/1882, Great Britain Legation - Bucharest*

¹¹ *Percy Sanderson*, <http://www.19thcenturyphotos.com/Percy-Sanderson-126843.htm> (accessed on 10.11.2023)

¹² AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 4/Repres. T1, *Note 40/ 1894, Great Britain Legation - Bucharest*

¹³ *Ibidem*, file 4/Repres. T1, *Note 25/1898, Great Britain Legation - Bucharest*

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

forms of Austrian consular representation in the Romanian space were attested as early as 1782, in the form of consular agencies and economic offices in Bucharest and Iași. Against the backdrop of the Tsarist Empire's occupation of the Romanian Principalities between 1828 and 1832, Vienna withdrew all its consular agents from Romanian cities.¹⁵

The return of Austrian consular officials to the Principalities was recorded in 1833. The Austrian consular network in these ports operated in close collaboration with the agencies of the Austrian navigation companies DDSG and Austrian Lloyd.

The consular network of Vienna in the Romanian port cities (1850–1900)

In the second half of the 19th century, Austria had 66 consular representatives in 7 Romanian port cities, as follows:

- Galați 33 (1850-1899);
- Braila 9 (1856-1877);
- Tulcea 6 (1856-1894);
- Sulina 7 (1857-1900);
- Ismail 4 (1857-1896);
- Turnu-Severin 5 (1871–1897);
- Giurgiu 2 (1882–1889).¹⁶ (See Annexe 2)

The presence of Austrian consular officials in the Romanian Danube ports was recorded for the period 1850–1900. Austria's interest was particularly evident in the Maritime Danube ports, as well as in the port of Turnu-Severin, where a shipyard of the DDSG navigation company operated. The central hub of Austrian consular representation was the port of Galați.

Noteworthy Austrian consular officials in their specific activities:

Julius von Jaxa-Dembicki studied philosophy and underwent military training, participating in the Battle of Novara (March 1849), where he was decorated. In 1855, he served as an agent of the DDSG company and was also appointed as a consular official in Galați. In 1856, he resigned from his position

¹⁵ Broadly in Ela Cosma, *Editing Austrian Consular Documents from Romanian Principalities and Serbia (1848 – 1849)*, "Transylvanian Review", Vol. XXI, No. 4, 2012.

¹⁶ Information synthesised from: AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 2 (Austria)/Repres. A1, A4, A7, A9, B5, B8, B10, B18, B20, B32, C8, C16, C10, C15-17, D3, D5, D6, E3, F19, F23, G3, G4, G14, G22, H1, H4, H11, H13, H26, H32, I4, I14, I15, J1, J4 K5, K13, K17, L2, L4, L7, L13, M2, M6, M21, N1, N8, O3, P1, P3, P11, P18, P26, P34, S12, S45, U3, V3, V4, V8, V11, V12, V20, Y1, Z1, Z2; *Diplomatic List of Austro-Hungary*, Viena, 1894, p. 213; *Bucharest Yearbook*, 1891-1892, Printing House "Românul" – Carol Gobl, p. 15; Engelbert Deusch, *Die effektiven Konsul Österreich(-Ungarns) von 1825–1918. Ihre Ausbildung, Arbeitsverhältnisse und Biografien*, Köln-Weimar-Wien, Böhlau Verlag, 2017.

at DDSG. Between 1857 and 1858, he served as secretary at the headquarters of the European Commission of the Danube in Sulina. He had linguistic proficiency in German, Polish, Czech, Romanian, Italian, and French.¹⁷

Johann Hanswenzel (Jean Hanswezel) served as Vice-Consul in Iași in 1856. In 1859, he was appointed Consul in Galați. In 1863, he was named Consul General in Izmir, and in 1864, he returned to the same position in Iași. In 1869, he took over the consular office in Braila, holding the position until he died in 1892.¹⁸ He stood out for having the longest tenure in Romanian cities, with 28 years of service.

Gustav Friedrich Von Kosjek was one of the founders of the Oriental Academy in Vienna, an institution dedicated to training Austrian diplomats. In 1859, he began his mission in Galați, later being transferred to Constantinople. He served as a delegate at the Congress of Berlin (1878) and, in the same year, was appointed counsellor at the Legation in Constantinople. In 1881, he was named a diplomatic agent and Consul General in Cairo; in 1883, he served in Tehran; and between 1887 and 1897, he was stationed in Athens.¹⁹

Ernst Friederich von Haan became a consular attaché in October 1863, being assigned to Izmir. On June 3, 1871, he was entrusted with the provisional leadership of the Consulate in Alexandria. In November 1871, he participated in organising the World Exhibition in Vienna, and on February 2, 1873, he was appointed consul. Between 1872 and 1875, he served in Bucharest, after which he was transferred to Galați, where he also served as a delegate to the European Commission of the Danube.²⁰ Between February and August 1882, he served as Consul General in Galați.²¹ In the same year, he was appointed to a similar position in Constantinople. In 1885, he was a member of the International Commission for the Suez Canal (Paris).²²

GREECE

Brief historical overview

The historical Greek–Romanian relations were marked by significant milestones, such as the long-standing contacts between the Hellenic and

¹⁷ Engelbert Deusch, *op. cit.*, p. 365-366.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 320.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 394-395.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 306-307.

²¹ AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 2/Repres. H4, *Note 1087/1882, Austrian Legation in Bucharest*.

²² Engelbert Deusch, *op. cit.*, p. 306-307.

Romanian spaces, shared religious denomination, and closely related mentalities and cultural elements. The economic dimension played a significant role in these relations. The Greek commercial presence secured reliable access to a profitable environment, supported by well-established Greek communities in most Romanian ports. The transition of Romanian culture from Slavic influences to Western values was mediated through the Neo-Greek channel. The Greek communities in Romanian cities, firmly rooted in the country's social, political, and economic realities, played a decisive role in Greece's national awakening. In the 19th century, a distinction should be made between the "old" Greeks – already naturalised and integrated into Romanian space – and the "newcomers," who settled for business purposes after the Treaty of Adrianople (1829), which also liberalised trade. The Danube ports of Braila, Galați, and Giurgiu became port-franc zones, with trade in the Danube area already under the control of the Greek bourgeoisie, whether from the diaspora or from Greece itself. The most significant economic marker of the Greek presence on the Danube and the Black Sea was navigation, which supported a flourishing trade. Between 1837 and 1858, the number of commercial ships flying the Greek flag on the Lower Danube accounted for about half of all active merchant vessels in the area (under Turkish, Austrian, British, and Russian flags).²³

In the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century, the Greeks consolidated their presence in navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea. Noteworthy is the presence and activity of the Greco-Oriental Company, founded in 1857 by Stephanos Xenos, who recognised the advantages of investing in river cabotage using steamships. These vessels operated on the Danube and could load grain at ports upstream of Braila. After Xenos's bankruptcy, the business was taken over by his former agents, who formed the firm "Teologos & Carnegie," operating routes between Romanian ports and London.²⁴

Against this backdrop, thousands of Greeks settled in the central Romanian port cities along the Danube and the Black Sea. From 1860 onwards, Prince A. I. Cuza officially granted Greek communities the right to own property and function under formal agreements, fostering the preservation and affirmation of Greek identity in Romania. The Greek communities in Romania functioned as

²³ Leonidas Rados, *Greci și români în secolul XIX. Aspecte identitare* [Greeks and Romanians in 19th century. Identitary aspects], "Xenopoliana. Buletinul Fundației Academice A. D. Xenopol", VIII, 2000, pp. 73-78.

²⁴ Ionel Constantin Mitea, *Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării (1830-1939)* [Navigation companies at the Mouth of the Danube 1830-1939], Târgoviște, Ed. Cetatea de Scaun, 2022.

true “lobby” mechanisms, maintaining close relations with the Greek consular representations in Romanian cities, which were regarded as the official link to the authorities in Athens.²⁵

In the last decade of the 19th century, Athenian journalist Gheorghios Paraskevopoulos described the state of the Greek communities in Romanian cities, noting that in most of them, “all nationalities spoke the Greek language.” However, the number of ethnic Greeks was in decline. The journalist further emphasised that the Greeks of the Danube Delta “constituted a source of prosperity for Hellenism everywhere, and their identity had to be preserved.” To achieve this goal, he called for an organised campaign to promote religious, national, and linguistic “fanaticism,” arguing that the leaders of the Greek communities could not achieve their objectives without Greece's diplomatic support.²⁶

The context presented above highlights the key pillars around which Greece's consular representation in Romanian port cities was oriented, namely the protection of the interests of the Greek communities within them, including their economic interests.

The first Greek consular official appointed in a Romanian port city was Xenos Patitos, who began his service in Galați in February 1835 and remained there until March 1839.²⁷

The consular network of Greece in the Romanian port cities (1850–1900)

During the reference period, Athens operationalised an impressive consular network in **13** Romanian ports, where **121** officials were active, as follows:

- Galați 17 (1850-1896);
- Braila 16 (1851-1899);
- Turnu Măgurele 9 (1855-1899);
- Ismail 8 (1857-1876);
- Oltenița 5 (1859-1875);
- Reni 2 (1864-1865);
- Giurgiu 23 (1869-1898);

²⁵ Leonidas Rados, *op. cit.*, pp. 79 - 81

²⁶ Broadly in Ștefan Petrescu, *Grecii din România: Însemnările de călătorie ale unui jurnalist ateniian la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea* [Greeks in Romania: Travel notes of an Athenian journalist at the end of the 19th century], “Anuarul Institutului de Istorie A. D. Xenopol”, tom LIV, 2017, pp. 179-193.

²⁷ AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 7/Repres. P1, *Note 562/1835, Greek Legation in Bucharest*

- Calafat 9 (1869-1900);
- Călărași 6 (1871-1891);
- Turnu – Severin 3 (1873-1891);
- Alexandria 1 (1876);
- Tulcea 12 (1878-1890);
- Sulina 10 (1879-1900).²⁸ (See Annexe 3)

Greece's consular representation in the Romanian ports spanned the entire studied period (1850–1900). Over half of the Greek officials held posts in the ports of the Maritime Danube; however, the central hub of Athens' consular representation was the port of Giurgiu, which had a large Greek community and an active core of Greek merchants.

Noteworthy Greek consular officials in their specific activities:

Epaminondas Mavromatis was appointed Vice-Consul in Ismail on August 2, 1871.²⁹ In 1874, he was transferred to the same position at the Vice-Consulate in Giurgiu.³⁰

Alexandru Leonardos was appointed Vice-Consul in Braila in 1874, where he served until 1877.³¹ In 1885, he returned to Braila as Consul after temporarily holding a similar position in Giurgiu that same year. He completed this new mandate in Braila in August 1886.³² On February 7, 1890, he returned to the position of Consul in Braila, completing his mission in September 1892.³³

Phocion Zinon was appointed Vice-Consul of Greece in Calafat in 1886.³⁴ On January 26, 1891, he was transferred to Tulcea, where he served until 1892.³⁵ He was appointed Vice-Consul in Turnu-Severin on July 27, 1892.³⁶

²⁸ Statistics highlighted from: AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 7, *Greece/F2, T7, A2, L1, A7, A11, G4, M2, L3, M5, A8, S11, C16, S12, M8, L5, G2, F1, G1, A3, A4, M2, P10, S4, P4, C4, P8, F1, K3, S15, B3, S17, A4, I4, M1, M6, L3, S1, I2, O1, N2, P7, H2, P12, M3, D3, S6, Z3, S9, M9, E1, T1, C6, C9, R3, L6, M10, I3, H4, M11, S21, P24, V12, D11, 13, D13, I4, V14, S28, S29, S30, D15, C36, L8, K5, T11, I5, X6*; Cristian Constantin, *Consular activity in Galați and Brăila (1919 – 1940)*, Iași, 2017.

²⁹ AMFAR, *Fund Representatives*, file 7, Repres. M6, *Note 1057/1871, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Note MOFA 350/1868 and 5713/1871*.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, Repres. P11, *Note MOFA 4041/1874*.

³¹ *Ibidem*, Repres. L3, *Note 1652/1874 and 350/1868, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Note MOFA 10556/1874*.

³² *Ibidem*, Repres. L2, *Note 702/1885, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Note MOFA 17804/1885 and 17808/1885*.

³³ *Ibidem*, Repres. M4, *Note 887/1892, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Note MOFA 19702/1892*.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, Repres. Z2, *Note 845/1886 Greek Legation in Bucharest; Note MOFA*

Stefanos Sarassoglou served as Vice-Consul in Turnu-Măgurele between 1883 and 1891. He stood out for his extensive consular representation activities, after which he was transferred to Tulcea.³⁷ In July 1892, he returned to Turnu Măgurele as Consul. In the same year, he was transferred once again, this time to Tulcea, in his new position as Consul.³⁸

The situation of consular representation for the three states, based on the number of officials who served in a particular port, is as follows:

- Galați: 59 (Great Britain – 9, Austria – 33, Greece – 17);
- Braila: 30 (Great Britain – 5, Austria – 9, Greece – 16)
- Giurgiu: 27 (Great Britain – 2, Austria – 2, Greece – 23)
- Sulina: 21 (Great Britain – 4, Austria – 7, Greece – 10)
- Tulcea: 20 (Great Britain – 2, Austria – 6, Greece – 12)
- Ismail: 13 (Great Britain – 1, Austria – 4, Greece – 8)
- Turnu – Severin: 8 (Austria – 5, Greece – 3)
- Calafat: 10 (Great Britain – 1, Greece – 9)
- Turnu Măgurele: 9 (Greece – 9)
- Călărași: 6 (Greece – 6)
- Oltenița: 5 (Greece – 5)
- Reni: 3 (Great Britain – 1, Greece – 2)
- Alexandria: 1 (Greece – 1)

CONCLUSIONS

In the second half of the 19th century, Southeastern Europe witnessed a dynamic historical context, marked by significant events in Romanian space (the Union of the Principalities, the Independence of Romania), which attracted the attention of several power players. The geostrategic and economic value of the Romanian Danube ports, the rise in commercial and navigation activities, were sustainable motivations for certain European chancelleries to exert their political

16048/1886.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, Repres. Z3 Note 130/1891, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Notes MOFA 3192/1891, 590/1891, 4019/1891, 4046/1891, 4213/1891, 21364/1891.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, Repres. Z5, Note MOFA 348/1892; Royal Decree 3014/1892; Note MOFA 18571/1892.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, Repres. S2, Notes 850/1883 and 357/1887, Greek Legation in Bucharest; Notes MOFA 17838/1883, 18707/1883; Repres. S10 Notes MOFA 18174/1892, 18570/1892.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, Repres. S10 Notes MOFA 18174/1892, 18570/1892.

influence through consular representation. Countries such as England, Austria, and Greece operationalised extensive consular networks in the Romanian Danube ports, through which they protected the interests of their citizens in Romania and exercised influence on actions aimed at promoting their political and economic objectives.

During the reference period, 212 diplomats from these three states were active in Romanian Danube ports, as follows: Great Britain – 25, in 7 cities; Austria – 66, also in 7 cities; and Greece – 121, in 14 cities.

The analysis of the distribution of consular officials, correlated with some historical benchmarks of the studied period, allows us to differentiate the motivations that led the three states to ensure their consular presence in the Romanian ports, as follows:

- Great Britain primarily sought to exercise its political influence in the region and to monitor the presence of rival states at the Danube Delta;
- Austria, a "giant" in Danube navigation, aimed at economic domination in the region and the enhancement of commercial and navigation activities carried out through the DDSG and Lloyd Austrian companies;
- Greece was notable for its sustained support for the established Greek communities in the Romanian ports and for protecting the prosperous Greek merchants settled there.

It is noteworthy that the Maritime Danube ports attracted the most significant interest from the three states. Of the 212 consular officials, 137 were active in the Maritime Danube ports. The ports of Galați and Braila recorded 59 and 30 consular officials, respectively.

Austria also showed particular interest in the port of Turnu-Severin, where the Austrian DDSG company operated a shipyard.

Greece distinguished itself by having the largest consular network in the Romanian Danube ports, with the most representatives in Giurgiu, where a large Greek community and an active core of Greek merchants were present.

All three states applied the principle of rotating officials among multiple Romanian cities within their consular networks to deepen their understanding of local realities: Percy **Sanderson** (Galați, Bucharest), Johann **Hanswenzel** (Galați, Braila, and Iași), Phocion **Zinon** (Calafat, Turnu-Severin, Tulcea).

A brief analysis of the professional background of British, Austrian, and Greek consular officials revealed that they benefited from rich specialized training, were fluent in multiple foreign languages, and had completed missions

across several regions (England, Austria); maintained direct connections with the navigation companies' agencies of their respective countries, supporting their interests (Austria); and promoted and supported merchant communities in the port cities (Greece).

The rich dynamics of British, Austrian, and Greek consular representation in the Romanian Danube ports during the second half of the 19th century revealed the heightened interest of the three states in the strategic and economic opportunities of the Romanian space.

ANNEXES

Annexe 1: British Consular Officials in Romanian Port Cities (1850 – 1900)

	Name and Surname	Year of Appointment	Port City
1	<i>Ettiene Joanides</i>	1855	Giurgiu
2	<i>Frederick C. Brown</i>	1856; 1876	Brăila; Galați;
3	<i>Gherasimo Diva</i>	1857	Calafat
4	<i>John Murly</i>	1857	Ismail și Reni
5	<i>Simon Mayers</i>	1859	Giurgiu
6	<i>Charles Fiott Barker</i>	1859	Tulcea
7	<i>Jospeh Hutton Dupuis</i>	1860	Sulina
8	<i>Dionisie N. Petala</i>	1860	Ismail
9	<i>George Bourchier Ward</i>	1860	Galați
10	<i>Powell</i>	1860	Galați
11	<i>John Stokes</i>	1861	Sulina
12	<i>Arthur Raby</i>	1862; 1864	Tulcea; Galați
13	<i>Percy Sanderson</i>	1876	Galați
14	<i>Frederick Morphy</i>	1878	Brăila
15	<i>Arthur Hermann Vecqueray</i>	1888	Sulina
16	<i>William Watson</i>	1889	Brăila
17	<i>Henry Edward Peter Algemon</i>	1889	Galați
18	<i>Henry Trotter</i>	1894	Galați
19	<i>Lionel Charles Lidell</i>	1894; 1899	Sulina; Galați
20	<i>Andrew Bennet</i>	1895	Galați
21	<i>W. B. Churchward</i>	1899	Brăila
22	<i>William John Norcop</i>	1899	Brăila

Source: Own synthesis based on information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Fund *Representatives*, File 4 (Great Britain)

Annexe 2: Austrian Consular Officials in Romanian Port Cities (1850 – 1900)

	Name and Surname	Year of Appointment	Port City
1	<i>Ferdinand Micksche</i>	1850	Galați
2	<i>Leopold Ritter Walcher von Molthein</i>	1853	Galați
3	<i>Carl von Kwiatkowski</i>	1854	Galați
4	<i>Julius von Jaxa-Dembicki</i>	1855	Galați
5	<i>Josef von Schnell</i>	1856	Galați
6	<i>Franz Carl Baumgartner Johann Becke</i>	1856	Galați
7	<i>Friederich Ritter Pertazi</i>	1856;1868; 1878	Tulcea
8	<i>Rudolph Edler von Wittinghausen Filek</i>	1856, 1873	Brăila
9	<i>Carl Dragoritsch</i>	1857	
10	<i>Gerhard Ritter von Chiari</i>	1857	Galați
11	<i>Paul Dichlich</i>	1857	Ismail
12	<i>Alois de Viscovich</i>	1857, 1871; 1860	Sulina Tulcea
13	<i>Johan Hanzwezel</i>	1859; 1869	Galați, Brăila
14	<i>Gustav Friederich Von Kosjek</i>	1859	Galați
15	<i>Gustav Ritter von Oesterreich</i>	1859; 1867	Brăila Galați
16	<i>M. Abramich</i>	1861	Ismail
17	<i>Alexander Edler von Spinsio</i>	1862	Galați
18	<i>Josef Yernich</i>	1864	Ismail
19	<i>Richard Ritter von Franceschi</i>	1865	Galați
20	<i>Franz Edler von Knapitsch</i>	1867	Brăila
21	<i>Isidor Ritter von Zotta</i>	1870	Galați
22	<i>Cajetan Zagorski</i>	1871; 1889	Turnu – Severin Brăila
23	<i>Friedrich Carl Cariniani</i>	1871	Galați
24	<i>Franz Yelinek</i>	1874; 1882; 1892	Sulina Tulcea Brăila
25	<i>Ernst Friederich von Haan</i>	1875	Galați
26	<i>Leo Ritter Karabetz von Nagybun</i>	1875, 1881	Brăila
27	<i>Alexander von Mayercsak</i>	1877	Brăila
28	<i>Paul Kornbach</i>	1877	Brăila
29	<i>Gustav Friedrich von Schreiner</i>	1878	Galați

30	<i>Friederic Pertazi</i>	1878	Tulcea
31	<i>Alexander von Bernd</i>	1880	Galați
32	<i>Natale Rocovich</i>	1880; 1894;	Sulina Tulcea
33	<i>Carl Rittervon Boleslawski</i>	1882	Galați
34	<i>Bela Basch</i>	1882	Galați Giurgiu
35	<i>Dominik Kiraly von Szathmar</i>	1883	Galați
36	<i>Marcell Cseh von Szent-Katolna</i>	1884	Turnu – Severin
37	<i>Thomas von Desewffy de Csernek und Tarkeo</i>	1884	Turnu - Severin
38	<i>Rudolf Wodianer von Maglod</i>	1886	Galați
39	<i>Joseph von Hurter-Amann</i>	1889	Giurgiu
40	<i>Carl Ludwig Bahr</i>	1890	Galați
41	<i>Carl Ritter von Gsiller</i>	1890	Galați
42	<i>Viktorin von Borhek</i>	1890; 1899	Turnu – Severin Galați
43	<i>Emil Kertsch</i>	1891; 1892; 1896	Galați Sulina Ismail
44	<i>Gustav Trojan</i>	1892	Galați
45	<i>Valentin Demsar</i>	1892	Sulina
46	<i>Jakob Wein</i>	1894	Galați
47	<i>Ernst Ioannovits</i>	1894	Tulcea
48	<i>Johann Wippert</i>	1895	Galați
49	<i>Moritz Friedrich Czikann von Wahlborn</i>	1895	Galați
50	<i>Carl Weiss von Teufenstein</i>	1897	Turnu – Severin
51	<i>Hugo Logothetti</i>	1897	Galați
52	<i>Seutter von Loetzen</i>	1898	Galați
53	<i>Franz Ritter Garlik von Osoppo</i>	1899; 1900	Galați Sulina
54	<i>Egon de Pflugl</i>	1900	Sulina

Source: Own synthesis based on information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Fund *Representatives*, File 2 (Austria)

Annexe 3: Greek Consular Officials in Romanian Port Cities (1850 – 1900)

	Name and Surname	Year of the Appointment	Port City
1	<i>G. Athanasiadi</i>	1850	Galați
2	<i>S. Ghionny</i>	1851, 1855	Galați
3	<i>George Freanitis (Tzariitis)</i>	1851	Brăila
4	<i>A. Theodosiadis</i>	1855	Turnu - Măgurele
5	<i>George Arghiropoulos</i>	1855	Turnu - Măgurele
6	<i>Alexandru Theodosiadis</i>	1855	Turnu - Măgurele
7	<i>Anastasiopulo</i>	1857	Ismail
8	<i>Ioan Methodius Ioannides</i>	1858; 1869, 1874;	Ismail; Giurgiu
9	<i>George I. Tsamado (Tsamadas)</i>	1858	Brăila
10	<i>Panaïotti N. Constantinou</i>	1859	Oltenița
11	<i>Zacharias Ioannides</i>	1860	Oltenița
12	<i>Vasile Antoniadis</i>	1862	Brăila
13	<i>Coritza</i>	1862	Turnu - Măgurele
14	<i>Vasile Papula</i>	1862	Turnu - Măgurele
15	<i>Constantin Verco</i>	1862	Giurgiu
16	<i>Nicolae G. Adam</i>	1862, 1868	Giurgiu
17	<i>Evangelhelides</i>	1864	Galați
18	<i>Leonida Geracaris</i>	1864	Galați
19	<i>Ioan Angonaki</i>	1864	Galați
20	<i>Coutigny</i>	1864	Ismail
21	<i>Ioan Milio</i>	1864	Ismail
22	<i>Timoleon Ioanidis</i>	1864	Reni
23	<i>P. Oeconomopoulos</i>	1865	Reni
24	<i>George Broussos</i>	1866	Oltenița
25	<i>Timoleon M. Ioannides</i>	1866	Giurgiu
26	<i>N. Aivorides</i>	1867	Galați
27	<i>Anton Pana</i>	1867	Oltenița
28	<i>S. Manolato</i>	1868	Galați
29	<i>Spiridon Logotatidis</i>	1868	Brăila
30	<i>Constantin Pervalis (Servalis)</i>	1868	Giurgiu
31	<i>Vasile P. H. Anargyros</i>	1868; 1896	Giurgiu Brăila
32	<i>Anton G. Antonopulos</i>	1869; 1874	Brăila Giurgiu
33	<i>Dimitrie Horami</i>	1869	Turnu - Măgurele
34	<i>Vasile Chagianargiris</i>	1869	Giurgiu
35	<i>Nicolae Nicolaidis</i>	1869	Calafat
36	<i>N. Brosky</i>	1870	Giurgiu

37	<i>Ștefan Ducas</i>	1870	Calafat
38	<i>Constantin Anagnostara</i>	1871	Giurgiu
39	<i>Epaminondas Mavromatis</i>	1871; 1874	Ismail; Brăila și Giurgiu
40	<i>Constantin Cyprios</i>	1871	Călărași
41	<i>Anton Protogiridis</i>	1871	Călărași
42	<i>George Papadimitropoulos</i>	1872	Călărași
43	<i>Panteleon Pyrgos</i>	1872; 1878;	Giurgiu Tulcea
44	<i>Christodor (Christodule) Tziotidis</i>	1873	Turnu - Severin
45	<i>Ioan Palamède (Palamidis)</i>	1874	Galați
46	<i>George Tramados</i>	1874	Galați
47	<i>Petre Antoniadis</i>	1874	Brăila
48	<i>Alexandru Leonardos</i>	1874; 1885, 1890; 1883, 1885;	Ismail; Brăila; Giurgiu
49	<i>Pantoleon Pyrgos</i>	1874	Ismail
50	<i>Luca Anagnosti</i>	1874	Călărași
51	<i>Pericles Buttieridis</i>	1875	Oltenița
52	<i>I. Sigaropulo</i>	1876	Ismail
53	<i>Papadopoulos</i>	1876	Calafat
54	<i>George Kantos (Lenthos)</i>	1876	Calafat
55	<i>Ion Papajaniopulo</i>	1876	Călărași
56	<i>Sava Papajannopoulo</i>	1876	Alexandria
57	<i>Dimitrios Mavromichalis</i>	1877	Giurgiu
58	<i>Charalambie Caravia</i>	1879	Giurgiu
59	<i>Gustave Bronikofsky</i>	1879	Turnu - Severin
60	<i>André Delaporta</i>	1879	Sulina
61	<i>Ulysse Sofas</i>	1879	Sulina
62	<i>Mihail Nicolau</i>	1880	Sulina
63	<i>Achille Tzimburakis</i>	1880	Sulina
64	<i>E. Eugeniadis</i>	1880	Sulina
65	<i>Ioan (Jean) Papacostopoulos</i>	1881	Galați
66	<i>Jacob (Jacques) Contoumas</i>	1881	Galați
67	<i>G. P. Goudis</i>	1881	Giurgiu
68	<i>Aristomene A. Hatzinicolis</i>	1881	Giurgiu
69	<i>P. Zavos</i>	1881	Giurgiu
70	<i>Constantin Panourias</i>	1881	Tulcea
71	<i>P. Permagali</i>	1883	Calafat
72	<i>Costi</i>	1882	Galați
73	<i>Epaminondas Philon</i>	1882	Galați
74	<i>Dimitrie Glionis (Demetrius Ghionis)</i>	1882	Brăila
75	<i>Panos Gulinos</i>	1882	Tulcea

76	<i>Nicolas Coutzalexis</i>	1882	Sulina
77	<i>Panayotis Matarangas</i>	1883	Brăila
78	<i>J. Psilidis</i>	1888	Tulcea
79	<i>Stefanos Sarassoglou</i>	1883, 1892; 1891	Turnu – Măgurele Tulcea
80	<i>Guillaume Fontanas</i>	1884	Galați
81	<i>Phocion Zinon</i>	1886; 1891	Calafat; Tulcea, Călărași, Turnu Măgurele
82	<i>Nicolas Petalas</i>	1886	Giurgiu
83	<i>Andrei Charalambis (Haralambis)</i>	1886	Tulcea
84	<i>Spiridon Caranias</i>	1887	Galați
85	<i>Leonidas Metaxas</i>	1887	Tulcea
86	<i>E. Antipas</i>	1888	Galați
87	<i>M. Molaxas</i>	1888	Sulina
88	<i>Nicolas Cammenos</i>	1888	Sulina
89	<i>S. Kaloyeropoulos (Kalogeropulo)</i>	1890	Brăila
90	<i>Nicolas Diamandopulo (Diamantopulos)</i>	1890	Tulcea
91	<i>Angel Mazis</i>	1890	Tulcea
92	<i>Michel Simos</i>	1890	Tulcea
93	<i>Ion Antiphas</i>	1890	Tulcea
94	<i>George Antoniadis</i>	1891	Giurgiu
94	<i>E. Jeannuyacos</i>	1891	Calafat
96	<i>N. Antonopoulos</i>	1891	Turnu - Severin
97	<i>A. Psillianos</i>	1892	Giurgiu
98	<i>Alexandros Metaxas</i>	1892	Brăila
99	<i>Dimitrie Kimbritis</i>	1896	Galați
100	<i>Sp. A. Petsalis</i>	1896	Turnu - Măgurele
101	<i>Spyridon E. Petalas</i>	1896	Calafat
102	<i>Miltiade Raphael</i>	1896	Sulina
103	<i>Constantin Svoronos</i>	1897	Brăila
104	<i>M. Z. Chryssoveroni</i>	1897	Brăila
105	<i>Christo Christidis</i>	1898	Giurgiu
106	<i>Christo Mitsopoulos</i>	1898	Giurgiu
107	<i>Mihail Spiliotakis</i>	1899	Brăila
108	<i>M. Nomicos</i>	1899	Turnu Măgurele
109	<i>Eustatiu Manolatos</i>	1900	Calafat
110	<i>Constantin Colocotronis</i>	1900	Sulina

Source: Own synthesis based on information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Fund- *Representatives* File 7 (Greece)

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