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Dimitrie A. Sturdza, historian, collector, general secretary of the Romanian Academy

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This paper aims to reveal the complex personality of Dimitrie A. Sturdza, his care and concerns for the collection and preservation of cultural heritage, especially (manuscripts, medals, coins) within the Romanian Academy, whose president and then secretary general was for 43 years, during which time he watched over the enrichment of the treasury of this prestigious institution.

The starting point of this approach was based on a series of questions about the personality of Dimitrie A. Sturdza. How was the Dimitrie A. Sturdza man in everyday life? What was his attitude regarding the development of Romanian culture? What was the impact left by him in the Romanian culture and, implicitly, of the modern Romanian state? What was the image he left to his contemporaries? What was his contribution to the evolution of Romanian numismatics? The doctoral thesis tried to find an answer to these questions.

From a methodological point of view, I approached the topic using: a) *investigation*, which required a sustained, laborious and sometimes difficult work in the field, in order to find materials and information (I am referring here to archives, manuscripts, houses and palaces where lived Dimitrie A. Sturdza); b) *the documentary observation*, in which I had to get acquainted with archive funds or documents that have not been capitalized or researched sporadically so far and to systematize them in order to have a clearer picture of the information; c) *the interpretation*, in which we analyzed the documents on the topic of this approach and the works elaborated by Dimitrie A. Sturdza; d) *description* of the personality and cultural activity of Dimitrie A. Sturdza; e) *the interview* I had the honour to do with the historian Mihai Dimitrie Sturdza.

This work is constituted, in a considerable proportion, on the basis of the primary information from the county and national archive funds, as well as from the funds within the Library of the Romanian Academy.

Thus, the original sources that were used in this paper come, first of all, from the Dimitrie A. Sturdza Archive kept at the Manuscript Cabinet of the Romanian Academy Library. Also at the Manuscript Office I consulted a large part of Dimitrie A. Sturdza's correspondence with his family members (brothers, sisters, mother, son, wife) and with various political and cultural personalities from the country and abroad. Within the Romanian Academy, it would be worth mentioning the Heritage Department, the Dimitrie A. Sturdza Fond, as well as the Archive of the Romanian Academy where we found information regarding the activity of Dimitrie A. Sturdza within this institution.

We also mention the fonds from the Neamț and Iași County Services of the National Archives, such as: Sturdza-Miclăușeni Fond, Documents Collection, Manuscripts Collection, Melchisedec Ștefănescu Collection, where we found information from the life of Dimitrie A. Sturdza, various aspects of his family life etc.

At the National Archives of Romania, the Central Historical Archives Services, we identified numerous information about the activity of Dimitrie A. Sturdza in several archival fonds. We list, among others: Sturdza Family Fond, Brătianu-familial Fond, Stamp Collection Fond, Romanian Land Credit Fond, Manuscript Collection Fond, Nicolae Iorga Fond, Hurmuzachi Fond, Ministry of Cults and Public Instruction Fond, etc. Also, it would be worth mentioning, from the Bucharest Municipal Service of the National Archives, the fonds: Collection of civil status registers Bucharest – married and the Historical Commission of Romania.

At the same time, I identified valuable information in the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Library of Romania – Special Collections Service, the Manuscripts Cabinet, the Central University Library „Mihai Eminescu”, Iasi, the Cabinet of Special Collections.

Regarding the press, a significant share in our work had the magazine of the Romanian Academy, suggestively „The Annals of the Romanian Academy”, where we found information that exactly reflects the activity of Dimitrie A. Sturdza within this institution. Especially in section I, entitled „Administrative part and debates“, you will find the information from each meeting within all the interventions of Dimitrie A. Sturdza. These, in fact, were our main source for the third chapter of the doctoral thesis. I also gathered a lot of information from: „Albina“, „Adevărul”, „Bukarester Tagblatt”, „Buletinul Societății Geografice Române”, „Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române”, „Gazeta ilustrată”, „L’Indepëndance Roumaine”, „Le journal des Balkans”, „Monitorul Oficial al Moldovei”, „Opinia”, „Trompeta Carpaților”, „Universul”, etc.

The archival sources were supplemented, of course, by the works of Dimitrie A. Sturdza published during his lifetime. For understanding and interpreting his journalistic activity, his role an place in Romanian historiography, I consulted all the scientific works, as well as the collections „Acts and documents related to the history of Romania’s rebirth”, „Documents an the history of Romanians”, known as the Hurmuzachi Collection, volumes of documents dedicated to king Carol I and his numismatic works.

In my documentation, I did not bypass modern sources of information, such as the Internet, by using sites that were of real use.

Wanting to have a more coherent approach on the subject, I structured the paper in five distinct chapters to highlight as clearly as possible the versatility of his concerns.

Thus, we approached the biographical aspects of Dimitrie A. Sturdza's life in chapter I, entitled „Biography of Dimitrie A. Sturdza”, which was organized in five subchapters.

In this chapter we analysed the aspects related to his origin, his family, his studies in the country and abroad, the cultural environment in Germanian at that time, especially the influence on his personality of the scholars Petru M. Câmpeanu and Leopold von Ranke, then the directorates on who has held them throughout his life in various institutional structures and, last but not least, I analyzed the man Dimitrie A. Sturdza with all his flaws and qualities.

In the second chapter, „Dimitrie A. Sturdza: historian and publisher”, we highlighted his work as a publicist, historian and publisher of historical documents. Born into a family of collectors from Moldova, Dimitrie A. Sturdza also inherited this passion. Therefore, many of the documents he collected he capitalized on himself, by initiating the collection „Acts and documents related to the history of Romania's rebirth”, in ten volumes. Therefore, he was one of the most diligent collectors and editors of documents, creating or laying the foundations of prestigious and indispensable documentary collections for the knowledge of modern Romanian history, as was for example the collection of documents dedicated to the reign of king Carol I. We also talked about his involvement in the effort to publish the documents discovered by Eudoxiu Hurmuzachi in the archives abroad, documents that unfortunately, this scholar found, copied, but did not have the time to print, because he passed away in 1874. Then, we analyzed his works and studies that have topics in several fields, such as economics, history, religion, politics, etc. The diversity of subjects of his works denotes his complex personality.

In chapter III, entitled „Dimitrie A. Sturdza's contribution to the development of the Romanian Academy”, I presented a short history of the Romanian Academy, and I highlighted the contribution that Dimitrie A. Sturdza made to this institution. I referred to his suggestions and innovations in organizing it, administrative measures, plans, etc. At the same time, we talked about the fact that he made impressive donations to the Romanian Academy and always supported young researchers in order to collect historical documents. And in this chapter we tried to reconstruct as thoroughly as possible his activity within this scientific forum.

In the fourth chapter, entitled „Dimitrie A. Sturdza – the founder of modern numismatic science in Romania”, we presented a brief history of the history of numismatics, we talked about its role in the development of this science in our country, about the significance of his work in this field of activity and, last but not least, I emphasized his contribution as a man of culture and collector. Thus, I reported that Dimitrie A. Sturdza stood out from a young age in a discipline still young, but with a special importance in this field of investigation, numismatics. He has collected countless coins and medals that he has donated over the years to several cultural institutions in the country and abroad. I also pointed out that through his specialized works, „Romanian Numismatics”, „Memorial on Romanian Numismatics”, „Bibliography of Romanian Numismatics”, etc., he paved the way for researchers of this science. Therefore, for this merits in this field he was appointed honorary president of the Romanian Numismatic Society.

At the same time, I pointed out that a history of Romanian numismatics has not been addressed so far. Although there is a rich numismatics literature, it is not generous or does not contain any information about the history of numismatics in our country.

In chapter V we have tried to compile a classification of his historiographical work. Although we recognize that this is unfortunately not exhaustive, as many of this articles have been published in various foreign journals, which are not accesible.

The paper ends with the conclusion of several Conclusions, which obviously derive from the analysis performed on the life and cultural activity of Dimitrie A. Sturdza, followed by the enumeration of the Bibliography used in the elaboration of this scientific paper.