

THE TIMES AND WORKS OF PAMFIL POLONIC

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Abstract: Around 1900 Romanian topography was in full development, Generals Barozzi and Brătianu working on a detailed and precise map of Romania. This was the atmosphere of the period when P. Polonic worked and we want to present it using speeches of general C. I. Brătianu. Those were the times when a topographic engineer – formed in military schools – could act at the ideal moment for the cataloguing of historical and archaeological monuments and for the creation of an archaeological map. As an example of his activity, we presented here the information on four sites, some already known, some gone or left unexcavated.

Rezumat: În jurul anului 1900, prin activitatea generalilor Barozzi și Brătianu, topografia românească era în plină dezvoltare, căutându-se a se realiza o hartă a României cât mai precisă și detaliată. Aceasta era atmosfera în care P. Polonic a lucrat și pe care vrem să o prezentăm folosind discursurile generalului C. I. Brătianu. Acestea era epoca în care un inginer topograf – format în școli militare – putea acționa în condiții prielnice pentru repertorierea monumentelor istorice și arheologice cu scopul de a realiza o hartă arheologică. Ca un exemplu al activității sale, prezentăm informații despre patru situri, unele deja cercetate, altele rămase până azi necercetate.

The activity of the topographic engineer P. Polonic – employed by the National Museum of Antiquities¹ – must be regarded today taking into account the everyday realities of the beginning of the 20th century in the newly created kingdom of Romania. A short insight into the atmosphere of the time when his efforts to record the ancient and medieval monuments of Romania took place, is thus necessary.

In order to understand the historical context, we shall revise some of the speeches of General Constantin I. Brătianu,² where he was stressing the necessity of producing an accurate and detailed topographic map of the freshly established European state. Appointed director of the Geographic Institute of the Army,³ the general fought real “battles” to create these topographic maps, bringing scientific arguments in support of his speeches delivered at the plenary sessions of the Romanian Academy. The first one was the very speech delivered at his acceptance as a Corresponding Member of the Academy in 1899.⁴

A few facts preceding the activity of P. Polonic

Starting with 1832 the Organic Regulations stipulated the foundation of a geographic department and the creation of a map for the Walachia and Moldavia which would only happen in 1872.⁵

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¹ Barbu 1965, Mateescu 1969, Mateescu 1978, Păunescu 2003, Măgureanu 2010, Măgureanu 2013a, Măgureanu 2013b.

² Constantin I. Brătianu (1844 - 1910) – General, geodesic and topographic engineer, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (since April 10th, 1899). **Studies:** in 1864 he graduated the School for Officers in Bucharest as a 2nd lieutenant Corps of Engineers; he later graduates École des Mines and Army Staff College in Paris (1864-1867); he specialized at the Paris Observatory and the cadastral Service of France; between 1868-1870 he was detached at the Army Headquarter of the Geographic Service of the Belgian Army and at the Military Geographic Institute in Vienna. **Career:** during the Independence War (1877-1878), as an officer at the Army Headquarter, he re-organized the Service for Cartographic Reproductions and he commanded the Topographic Section at the High Command of the Romanian Army; in 1885 he was the director of the Geographic Institute of the Army; in 1887 he was appointed sub-commander of the High Command of the Romanian Army; in 1896 he was brigade general. **Selected works:** *Notițe asupra chartelor actuale ale României, urmate de un proiect pentru alcătuirea chartei generale a Regatului* (1888); *Instrucțiunile pentru determinări geodezice* (1895); *Trebuința de a se face cadastrul României cu modele de întrebuiințat. Organizarea serviciului cadastral și proiect pentru buget de venituri și cheltuieli* (1899). He coordinated, together with Grigore Tocilescu and George Ioan Lahovary, under the auspices of the Romanian Geographic Society, *Marele dicționar geografic al României* (he was one of the founding members -1875); cf. Militari 2012, p. 16; Toderiță, Gustăreacă 2012, pp. 12-13.

³ A position he would hold for 15 years, cf. Brătianu 1907, p. IX.

⁴ *Notițe despre lucrările cari au avut de scop descrierea geometrică a României* (1900); *Însemnătatea chartei României pentru economia noastră națională* (1901); *Însemnătatea chartei țării pentru apărarea națională*, (1902); *Stabilirea regimului cadastral de care are nevoie România* (1903); *Însemnătatea chartei țării pentru istoria patriei și a neamului* (1905); *Însemnătatea chartei țării pentru stabilirea regimului cadastral în România* (1910).

⁵ Brătianu 1901b, p. 23.