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THE CONSULAR NETWORK OF THE TSARIST EMPIRE IN THE PORTS OF THE MARITIME DANUBE AND THE BLACK SEA (1836–1914) – NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN BUCHAREST

Abstract: The Danube, the Mouths of the Danube, and the Black Sea have been and continue to be regarded as geographical landmarks of outstanding strategic value, toward which the great European and Eastern powers directed their attention for centuries. Situated at the boundary between Europe and the East, the Danubian–Pontic region was a land of fierce disputes between the Tsarist Empire and the Ottoman Empire, confrontations that also involved interventions by other major power actors (the British Empire, France, Prussia, the Habsburg Empire), all seeking to consolidate their own positions and interests in this area.

The period under analysis finds the Tsarist Empire as a power actor at both the European and regional levels, with a rich presence on the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea, where it intersected its interests with those of the Ottoman Empire and the Western powers. One of the main levers of the Tsarist Empire's political influence in the region was the consular network operationalized in the ports of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea.

During the period analyzed, the Tsarist Empire maintained in the port cities of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea a consolidated consular network that enabled it to exercise political influence in the region. This network was staffed by 30 consular officials who served in the ports of Galați, Ismail, Brăila, Tulcea, Sulina, and Constanța. The most representative consular offices, both in terms of staff dynamics and the coordination of lower-ranking offices, were those in Galați and Tulcea. The consular representatives who served in Galați after 1856 also fulfilled the role of delegates of the Tsarist Empire to the European Commission of the Danube.

Keywords: Tsarist Empire, Danube, Black Sea, consular offices, consular officials, ports

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КОНСУЛЬСЬКА МЕРЕЖА ЦАРСЬКОЇ ІМПЕРІЇ У ПОРТАХ НИЖНЬОГО ДУНАЮ ТА ЧОРНОГО МОРЯ (1836–1914): НОТАТКИ З АРХІВІВ МІНІСТЕРСТВА ЗАКОРДОННИХ СПРАВ У БУХАРЕСТІ

Анотація: Дунай, гирла Дунаю та Чорне море були і залишаються географічними орієнтирами виняткового стратегічного значення, до яких протягом століть була прикута увага великих європейських і східних держав. Розташований на межі між Європою та Сходом, Дунайсько-Понтійський регіон був ареною гострого суперництва між Царською й Османською імперіями, у протистояння яких також втручалися інші великі держави (Британська імперія, Франція, Пруссія, Габсбурзька імперія), кожна з яких прагнула зміцнити власні позиції та реалізувати свої інтереси у цьому регіоні.

У досліджуваній період Царська імперія виступала як значущий актор як на європейському, так і на регіональному рівні, маючи значну присутність на Нижньому Дунаї та Чорному морі, де її інтереси перетиналися з інтересами Османської імперії та західних держав. Одним із основних інструментів політичного впливу Царської імперії в регіоні була консульська мережа, що діяла у портах Нижнього Дунаю та Чорного моря.

Упродовж досліджуваного періоду Царська імперія утримувала в портових містах Нижнього Дунаю та Чорного моря розгалужену консульську мережу, яка давала їй змогу здійснювати політичний вплив у регіоні. До цієї мережі входили 30 консульських службовців, які працювали у портах Галаца, Ізмаїла, Браїли, Тульчі, Суліні та Констанци. Найбільш представницькими консульськими установами як за динамікою кадрового складу, так і за координацією діяльності нижчих за рангом установ, були консульства у Галаці та Тульчі. Консульські представники, які працювали у Галаці після 1856 року, також виконували функції делегатів Царської імперії в Європейській дунайській комісії.

Ключові слова: Царська імперія, Дунай, Чорне море, консульські установи, консульські службовці, порти

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Introduction. *Purpose of the study* – to provide a concise analysis of the consular network of the Tsarist Empire in the ports of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea (Brăila, Galați, Ismail, Tulcea, Sulina, and Constanța), from the perspective of the dynamics of the presence of the consular officials who staffed them, using as the main basis for study the references contained in the original documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest.

Scientific novelty – lies in highlighting the pronounced interest of the Tsarist Empire in the strategic potential of the Danube and the Black Sea, expressed through the operationalization of consular offices in the above-mentioned port cities.

Literature Review. The bibliographic substance of this article is provided by the documents contained in the Fonds – Foreign Representatives in Romania – Personnel of Foreign Legations and Consulates, file 16 – Russia, preserved in the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania. For a synthetic understanding of the historical context and of the Tsarist Empire's interest in the Danube and Black Sea region, we have drawn on the works of authors such as Constantin Ardeleanu¹, Arthur Viorel Tuluș², Ionel Mitea³, Andrei Emilciuc⁴, and W.E. Mosse⁵.

Historical Context. The Importance of the Danube and the Black Sea in the Regional Political Equation. Historically speaking, over the centuries, the Danube River, beyond being an artery of communication and transport in the economic exchanges of the riparian communities, was more than that: a barrier, a frontier zone between rival empires⁶.

The Danube, the Mouths of the Danube, and the Black Sea have been and continue to be regarded as a region of outstanding strategic value, toward which the great European and Eastern powers directed their interests for centuries.

Situated at the geographical intersection of Russo-Ottoman interests, over the last centuries the Danubian-Pontic region constituted a land of fierce disputes between the Tsarist Empire and the Ottoman Empire.

All these confrontations involved interventions by major power actors such as the British Empire, France, Prussia (Germany), and the Habsburg Empire, all seeking to consolidate their own positions and interests in the region.

An important moment in the evolution of international relations at the European level,

¹ Ardeleanu C. Evoluția intereselor economice și politice britanice la Gurile Dunării (1829-1914) = The Evolution of British Economic and Political Interests at the Mouths of the Danube (1829-1914). Brăila: Editura Istros – Muzeul Brăilei, 2008. XII+351 pp.

² Tuluș A.V. Dunărea maritimă între Aranjamentul de la Sinaia și Acordul de la Belgrad (1938-1948) = The Maritime Danube between the Sinaia Arrangement and the Belgrade Agreement (1938-1948). Galați: Galați University Press, 2008. 351 p.

³ Mitea I.C. Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939 = Shipping Companies at the Mouths of the Danube 1830-1939. Târgoviște: Cetatea de Scaun Publishing House, 2022. 384 p.; Mitea I.C. The consular representation network of Greece in Romanian cities (1835-1940). *The Scientific Journal of Cahul State University "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu"*. 2025. Vol. 1 (21). P. 61-93.

⁴ Emilciuc A. Basarabia în procesul de integrare a Imperiului Rus în sistemului comerțului european (1812 – anii '60 ai sec. al XIX-lea) = Bessarabia in the Process of Integrating the Russian Empire into the System of European Trade (1812 – the 1860s of the 19th Century). Chișinău: Lexon-Prim, 2021. 756 p.

⁵ Mosse W.E. Russia and the Levant, 1856-1862: Grand Duke Constantine Nicolaevich and the Russian Steam Navigation Company. *The Journal of Modern History*. 1954. Vol. 26, No. 1. P. 39-48.

⁶ Mitea I.C. Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939... P. 21.

the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna (1815), constituted an early beginning in the modern regulation of navigation on international rivers, including the Danube. Against the background of rivalries among the great empires, the status of the Danube remained uncertain. The Treaty of Adrianople (1829) generated political and economic consequences that brought to light the geopolitical importance of the River and, implicitly, of the Black Sea. Control of the Mouths of the Danube, seen through the prism of the balance of power on the European continent, transformed the region into a new space of symbolic confrontation between the Tsarist Empire and the Western powers⁷.

The Peace of Adrianople radically changed the balance of power in the Pontic basin region and on the Lower Danube, deepening the diplomatic conflict between the Tsarist Empire and the Western powers and creating the premises for a conflict between them. The treaty of 1829 enshrined the new Russo–Ottoman frontier in the region of the Mouths of the Danube. The Tsarist Empire and the Ottoman Empire mutually guaranteed each other the right of navigation and trade in the waters of the other state, the Russian merchant fleet obtaining the right to pass through the Straits without restrictions. Merchant vessels of the powers that were in a state of non-belligerency with the Ottoman Porte received the right of free navigation, and the Black Sea was opened completely to international trade⁸.

The end of the Crimean War and the Peace Treaty of Paris (1856) brought important changes in the functioning of the Danube as an artery of international mobility. The rivalry between the non-riparian Western powers (France and Great Britain) and the riparian empires (Habsburg, Tsarist, and Ottoman) was driven by economic reasons, chiefly related to trade on the Danube and the Black Sea, ensured by the shipping companies that were becoming increasingly important as instruments of economic and political expansion⁹.

The Treaty of Paris led to the elimination of Russian domination at the Mouths of the Danube and stipulated the principle of free navigation on the Danube. In order to create a barrier between the Tsarist Empire and the Ottoman Empire, but also between Russia and Western commercial interests, the European powers forced Russia to retrocede southern Bessarabia to Moldavia, while the Ottoman Empire re-established its rule over the Danube Delta¹⁰.

As these historical landmarks show, with the Congress of Vienna the importance of the Danube River increased exponentially, both economically and politically, fueling the interest of the great powers in its strategic capabilities. In this context, we witnessed a permanent consolidation of the presence in the Danubian–Pontic region of all the power actors, visible in various forms.

Thus, we witnessed a marked development of economic and trade activities, grounded chiefly in shipping companies. From the 1830s until the First World War, companies of the Habsburg (Austro-Hungarian) Empire, the Tsarist Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Greece competed for interests in the navigation system of the Lower Danube and the Black Sea.

⁷ Ibid. P. 22.

⁸ Ardeleanu C. Evoluția intereselor economice și politice britanice la Gurile Dunării... P. 38.

⁹ Mitea I.C. Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939... P. 22.

¹⁰ Tuluș A.V. Dunărea maritimă între Aranjamentul de la Sinaia și Acordul de la Belgrad... P. 26.

Complementary to this economic vector of influence, represented by the agencies of the shipping companies, the major actors interested in this region operationalized vast consular networks in the Danube and Black Sea ports, as instruments of political influence and of monitoring rival powers.

Interests of the Tsarist Empire on the Danube and the Black Sea. The context mentioned above presents the Tsarist Empire as a power actor at the European and regional levels, with a rich presence on the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea, where it competed for interests with the Ottoman Empire and the Western powers.

The main objective of the Tsarist leadership with regard to the Danube and the Black Sea was the control of important trade routes and free access to the Mediterranean.

Understanding the commercial importance of the Danube and the Black Sea, beginning in the 1830s, the Tsarist Empire created and consolidated efficient navigation instruments.

Thus, at the beginning of the 1830s, the governor of the New Russia region, Mikhail Vorontsov, established a public-private partnership in navigation by founding in Odesa a shipping company that operated voyages between Odesa and Istanbul, thus covering a route of strategic importance for the Russian Empire. In the following period, it initiated voyages between different ports of the Empire's Ukrainian provinces, with the role of providing services to economically or strategically important regions¹¹.

In 1833, the Black Sea Navigation Society was created, and in 1845 the imperial authorities decided to unify the maritime communication services between Odesa and Istanbul and toward other Russian ports within the so-called Naval Expeditions Office in Odesa. On 25 June 1846, a regular route between Odesa and Galați was introduced, served by the steamer 'Peter the Great', which later extended its voyage to Brăila¹².

The main objective of the imperial authorities regarding this route had several aims. Thus, the ports in southern Bessarabia, of which Ismail was the most important, were connected to the regional capital Odesa, while on the other hand the link with the voyages of the Austrian DDSG company toward Vienna was ensured, in the hope of developing commercial exchanges between the Ukrainian provinces and Central Europe¹³.

After the defeat of Tsarist Russia in the Crimean War, the tsar decided to reorganize the Russian shipping company. On 3 August 1856, the imperial government approved the establishment of 'Russkoye obshchestvo parokhodstva i trgovli' (ROPiT), whose purpose was to stimulate trade by steamship navigation in the south of the Empire and to maintain commercial and postal communications between Odesa, the Russian ports, and foreign destinations¹⁴.

From 1857, ROPiT already had nine lines, operating also in the ports of Brăila and Galați, and a year later the company covered routes toward Marseille, Alexandria, and Izmir, ensuring regular services to the Danubian ports throughout the 1860s and 1870s¹⁵.

In 1876, the company was reorganized under the form of the 'Prince Gagarin' Navigation

¹¹ Mitea I.C. *Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939...* P. 54.

¹² Emilciuc A. *Basarabia în procesul de integrare a Imperiului Rus în sistemului comerțului european...* P. 128-129.

¹³ Mitea I.C. *Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939...* P. 55.

¹⁴ Mosse W.E. *Russia and the Levant, 1856-1862...* P. 40.

¹⁵ Mitea I.C. *Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830-1939...* P. 56.

Company, having on the Danube two passenger lines and one freight line. The first ensured the Odesa–Reni connection, stopping in the region's more important ports (Ismail, Chilia, and Sulina); the second ensured the connection between Odesa and Svishtov and linked Odesa to the ports on the Romanian and Bulgarian banks of the Lower Danube.¹⁶

With the return of the Tsarist Empire to the Mouths of the Danube after 1878, the imperial authorities had more arguments for increasing their presence along the River, so that, beyond economic reasons, the strategic interests concerning the relationship with Bulgaria and Serbia made the functioning of navigation lines between the North-Pontic and Danubian ports vital for the Tsarist Empire¹⁷.

In 1886, the 'Prince Gagarin' Company was reorganized under the name Russian Steam Navigation Society on the Black Sea and the Danube, becoming much more active in the Danubian and maritime ports as well¹⁸.

At the end of the 1880s, a significant increase in the company's presence in Galați was observed, this being attributed also to a report by Percy Sanderson, the British consul in Galați and representative in the European Commission of the Danube (CED), in which reference was made to the propaganda and espionage plans of the Russian imperial government. Sanderson noted that the agents of the Russian company were for the most part members of the Russian Secret Police, and that recently the headquarters of the Russian secret police in Romania had been moved from Bucharest to Galați¹⁹.

CED information revealed, regarding the Russian company and the situation of the maritime lines, that the passenger routes between Odesa and Ismail and Odesa and Svishtov remained active until 1903, when a new reorganization of the company took place. After this reorganization, only a modest presence in the Danubian ports and solely on the Odesa–Reni route was observed²⁰.

In 1903, the Russian imperial authorities took steps for the government to become the company's sole shareholder after the payment of all its debts. In 1911 the Russian government concluded an agreement with the shipping company concerning the acquisition of six steamers built in Russian shipyards. In the same year, the company benefited from state subsidies for its lines to the Persian Gulf and for the seven navigation lines on the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea²¹.

Alongside this important segment of economic influence, represented by the activities of Russian shipping companies in the ports of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea, the Tsarist Empire created for itself a vast consular network as a mechanism of political influence and of monitoring local and regional realities.

The activity of the navigation agencies and of the consular ones had a complementary character in promoting Russian imperial interests and influence in the above-mentioned ports.

¹⁶ Ibidem.

¹⁷ Ibid. P. 163.

¹⁸ Ibid. P. 165.

¹⁹ Ardeleanu C. Evoluția intereselor economice și politice britanice la Gurile Dunării... P. 206–207.

²⁰ Mitea I.C. Companii de navigație la Gurile Dunării 1830–1939... P. 167.

²¹ Ibid. P. 169.

In what follows, we shall analyze elements of the consular network of the Tsarist Empire in the ports of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea for the period 1836, from which records exist in the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, up to 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War.

For a better understanding of the elements regarding Russian consular officials, we shall point out several terminological aspects concerning consular representation.

Consular Terminology. In the nineteenth century, consular representation had two main dimensions: protecting the interests of one's own citizens on foreign territory and carrying out actions of economic and political influence in a certain space.

The accrediting state was the one that sent a consular official to a foreign state, called the receiving state.

Consular offices had the following ranks: consular agency, vice-consulate, consulate, and consulate general.

Consular grades corresponded to the ranks mentioned above, namely: consular agent, vice-consul, consul, and consul general. The secretaries of consular offices were also called dragomans.

The notion of 'gerant' referred to a consular representative who held the provisional leadership of an office.

Consular representations had administrative autonomy in their own district, being subordinated to their own Legations (future Embassies) in the receiving state only from the political point of view, a mode of functioning that is preserved to this day²².

The Tsarist Consular Network in the Ports of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea. During the period analyzed, the consular network of the Tsarist Empire had the following organization:

- From 1836 until 1914, a Consulate in the port of Galați, transformed into a Consulate General at the beginning of the twentieth century. The office in Galați had under its authority the consular agency in Ismail and the vice-consulate in the port of Brăila;

- A Consulate for the entire region of Dobruja, headquartered in Tulcea, having under its authority the consular offices in Sulina and Constanța, which functioned as vice-consulates;

According to the records in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, these offices were staffed by 30 consular officials, as follows:

Galați:

Makedon – Between 15 April and 19 May 1836, he was gerant of the Imperial Tsarist Consulate in Galați²³.

Asfessfseur de College Cola – He held the position of vice-consul between 6 October 1842 and 27 October 1845. At the time of his appointment, he was consular attaché at the Russian Consulate General in Bucharest²⁴. In October 1846 he was promoted to the rank of

²² Mitea I.C. The consular representation network of Greece in Romanian cities... P. 68.

²³ Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (AMFAR). Fund: "Foreign Representatives in Romania – Personnel of Foreign Legations and Consulates". File 16: Russia/Representatives, File M2 (hereinafter AMFAR – Representatives), archival volume cover.

²⁴ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C1, archival volume cover, Note 19/1842, Russian Consulate General in Bucharest.

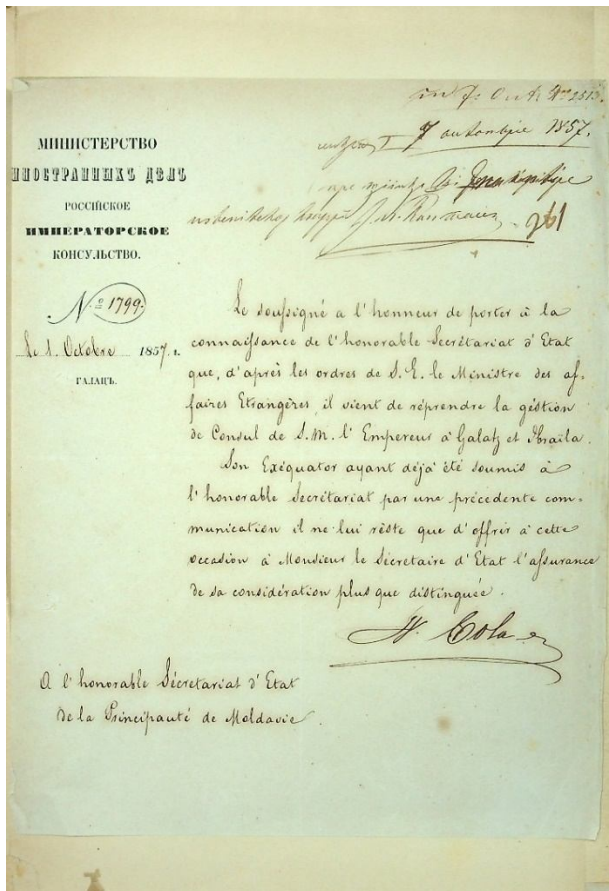


Fig. 1. Verbal note of the Russian Imperial Consulate in Galați regarding the assumption of the consul's duties by Asfesfseur de College Cola
(Source: AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C4)

consul, a position he held until October 1854. Between October 1854 and July 1856, the Tsarist consular post in Galați was suspended in the context of the Crimean War²⁵. Asfesfseur de College Cola returned to the position of consul in Galați on 2 July 1856 and held this function until 19 December 1856²⁶. On 1 October 1857 he returned to the position of consul in Galați, performing the specific duties until June 1861. His consular district also included the port of Brăila²⁷.

Alexander Romanenko – He took over the duties of gerant of the office in Galați in December 1856, after the end of Asfesfseur de College Cola's mission. He led the office on an interim basis until October 1857²⁸. In November 1864 he was appointed consul in Galați, a function he held until August 1892, having one of the longest mandates in the Danube city²⁹.

Leks (Lecs) – Between March and July 1863, he was consul in Galați. At the time of his appointment, he was a counselor at the Imperial Court of Russia³⁰.

Nikolas de Ladygensky – He assumed the function of consul in Galați in August 1892, ending his mandate in February 1902. Previously, he had held a similar position in

Koenigsburg. He held the rank of state counselor, and during his mandate in Galați he also occupied the position of Russia's representative in the European Commission of the Danube (CED)³¹.

Anatole Lobanov Rostovsky – He held the noble title of prince and assumed the function of consul in Galați in January 1902. One month later, he was appointed consul general in this

²⁵ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C2, archival volume cover.

²⁶ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C3, archival volume cover, Note 63/1856, Imperial Russian Consulate in Galați.

²⁷ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C4, archival volume cover, Note 1799/1857, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

²⁸ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R2, archival volume cover, Note 1300/1856, Russian Consulate in Galați.

²⁹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R2, archival volume cover, Note 1345/1864, Imperial Russian Consulate in the Romanian Principalities.

³⁰ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L1, archival volume cover, Note 347/1863, Russian Consulate General in the Romanian Principalities.

³¹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L5, archival volume cover, Telegram 88/1892 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Notes 655 and 836/1892, Russian Legation in Romania.

port, holding this position until December 1903, when he became seriously ill and was admitted to the 'Elisabeta Doamna' Hospital in Galați³².

Vladimir Jankovsy – In 1902, he was concluding his mission as consular secretary in Galați³³.

Eugeniu Boutkevitch – He was appointed consular secretary in Galați in May 1902³⁴.

Pierre de Kartamysheff – He assumed the function of consul general in Galați and Russia's representative in the CED in April 1904³⁵.

Petroff – In 1911, he was concluding his mission as vice-consul in Galați³⁶.

Jean Lazzaro – He was appointed vice-consul in Galați in October 1911. In February 1914, he was vice-consul in Sulina.³⁷

Eugen Pouzanoff – He was appointed vice-consul on 19 June 1914, replacing Jean Lazzaro³⁸.

Ismail:

Tuleianov – He was consular agent between August and November 1857³⁹.

Alexander Romanenko – He was appointed consular agent in January 1858⁴⁰.

Paul Romanenko – He was appointed consular agent in November 1864, holding this position until July 1869⁴¹. In 1869 he was appointed consul in Ismail, and his mandate ended in October 1878⁴².

Brăila:

Melas – He was appointed vice-consul in Brăila on 20 December 1865⁴³.

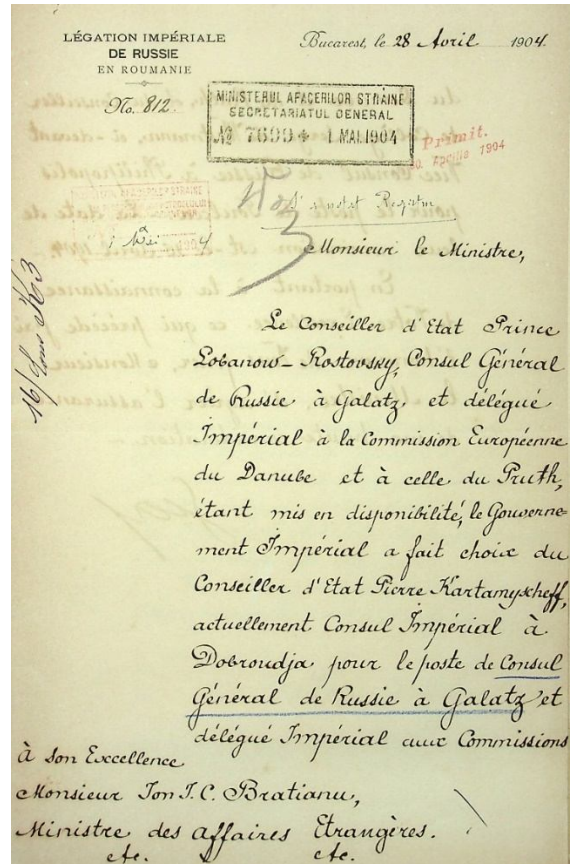


Fig. 2. Verbal note regarding the appointment of Anatole Lobanov Rostovsky to the position of consul general in Galați and delegate to the CED
(Source: AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L10)

³² AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L10, archival volume cover, Notes 166 and 298/1863, Russian Legation; Note 244/1903, Romanian delegate to the European Commission of the Danube.

³³ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/B4, archival volume cover.

³⁴ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/B4, Note 804/1902, Russian Legation.

³⁵ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/K6, archival volume cover, Note 812/1904, Russian Legation.

³⁶ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L13, Note 1992/1911, Russian Legation.

³⁷ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/L13, archival volume cover; Notes 1992/1911, 296/1914, Russian Legation.

³⁸ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/P9, archival volume cover; Notes 1006/1914, 296/1914, Russian Legation.

³⁹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/T4, archival volume cover.

⁴⁰ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R3, archival volume cover.

⁴¹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R3, archival volume cover; Note 1346/1864, Russian Consulate General in the Romanian Principalities.

⁴² AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R4, archival volume cover.

⁴³ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/M1, archival volume cover, Note 5973/1865, Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Royal House of Romania.

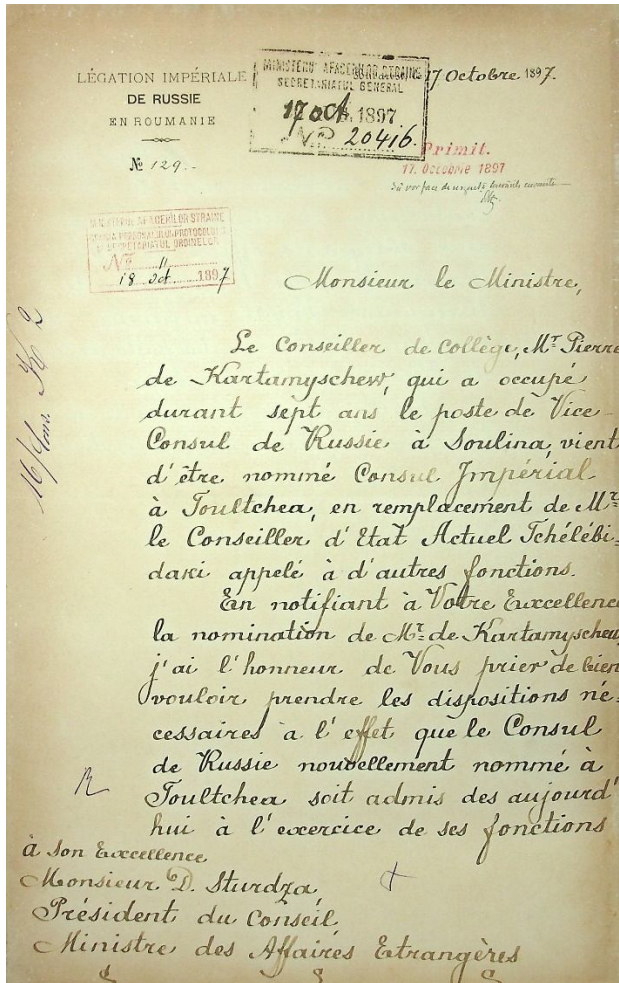


Fig. 3. Verbal note – appointment of Pierre de Kartamyschew to the position of consul in Tulcea
(Source: AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/K4)

Sulina and Constanta:

Samuel Pampulov – He was appointed vice-consul in Constanța on 11 February 1880. He had also held this function before the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, although no specific period is recorded⁵⁰.

Victor Schafiroff – He was vice-consul in Sulina between November 1881 and February

Tulcea:

Niagha (Neagu) – In December 1878, he was interpreter at the Russian Imperial Legation and was appointed to the provisional leadership of the Consulate in Tulcea⁴⁴.

Alexandru Sorokin – On 3 May 1879, he was appointed consul in Tulcea, with a mandate that ended in April 1888. The consular district of the office in Tulcea included the entire region of Dobruja⁴⁵.

Aristane Tcheledidaky (Celebidake) – He was appointed consul in Dobruja, with residence in Tulcea, on 7 April 1888. His mandate ended in October 1897⁴⁶.

Pierre de Kartamyschew – He was appointed consul in Tulcea in October 1897 and held this position until June 1903⁴⁷. In 1904 he was appointed consul general in Galați (see above, under the port of Galați).

Alexandru Dobrogeanu – In November 1897, he was appointed consular secretary in Tulcea. Previously he had held the position of dragoman of the office in Sulina⁴⁸.

Serge de Westman – In June 1904, he was appointed consul in Tulcea. He served in this position until 1916, when he left the post because of the war⁴⁹.

⁴⁴ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/N2, archival volume cover, Note 1656/1878, Russian Legation.

⁴⁵ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/S2, Note 431/1879, Russian Legation.

⁴⁶ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/C1, archival volume cover; Note 223/1888, Russian Legation.

⁴⁷ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/K4, archival volume cover; Note 129/1897, Russian Legation.

⁴⁸ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/D1, Note 91/1898, Tulcea Prefecture to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁴⁹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/V5, Note 998/1904, Russian Legation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Telegram 15910/1919.

⁵⁰ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/P1, Note 109/1980, Russian Legation.

1885. At the end of his mandate, the interests of Russian subjects in Sulina were represented by the Austro-Hungarian Consulate⁵¹.

Pierre de Kartamyscheff – He held the position of vice-consul in Sulina between 20 November 1890 and 23 October 1897. At the end of his mission, the function of gerant was taken over by the secretary of the Consulate in Tulcea, Alexandru Dobrogeanu⁵². In 1904 he was appointed consul general in Galați (see above, under the port of Galați).

Laurens (Laurent) Gianni – In October 1897 he was the secretary of the Consulate in Galați and was appointed vice-consul in Sulina⁵³.

Eugeniu Boutkevitch – He was appointed vice-consul in Sulina in April 1906, having previously held the position of secretary of the Russian Consulate in Galați⁵⁴ (see above, under the port of Galați).

Ragosine – In May 1911, he was appointed Russia's gerant for the vice-consulate in Sulina, which also had jurisdiction over the port of Constanța⁵⁵. He ended his mission one year later, being sent to a similar position in Varna.

Vladimir Richter – He took over the post of vice-consul for Sulina and Constanța in April 1912. At the beginning of the First World War, he still held this position⁵⁶.

Jean Lazzaro – In 1914, he was vice-consul in Sulina (see the port of Galați).

Conclusions. During the period analyzed, the Tsarist Empire maintained in the port cities of the Maritime Danube and the Black Sea a consolidated consular network that enabled it to exercise political influence in the region.

This network was staffed by 30 consular officials, as follows: Galați – 12; Ismail – 3; Brăila – 1; Tulcea – 6; Sulina and Constanța – 8.

The most representative offices were those in:

- Galați, initially organized with the rank of consulate and later elevated to the level of consulate general, which had under its authority the consular agency in Ismail and the vice-consulate in Brăila.

- Tulcea, organized with the rank of consulate, which had jurisdiction over the entire region of Dobruja, namely the vice-consulates in Sulina and Constanța.

Some of the Russian consular officials held the rank of state counselor, while some possessed noble titles (Pierre de Kartamyscheff, Serge de Westman, Anatole Lobanov Rostovsky).

The consular representatives who served in Galați after 1856 were also delegates of the Tsarist Empire to the European Commission of the Danube.

According to the principle referring to an in-depth knowledge of local realities, some

⁵¹ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/S3, Notes 267 and 564/1881, Russian Legation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Telegram to the Tulcea Prefecture, no. 2334/1885.

⁵² AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/K3, Notes 965/1895, 70/1897, Russian Legation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note 832/1897.

⁵³ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/G3, Note 132/1897, Russian Legation.

⁵⁴ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/B8, Note 728/1906, Russian Legation.

⁵⁵ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note no. 12293/1911 to the Royal House of Romania; Note 1058/1911, Russian Legation.

⁵⁶ AMFAR – Representatives. File 16/R3, Note 690/1912, Russian Legation; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Note 12994/1914.

Russian consular officials served in more than one of the ports that are the subject of the present study (Pierre de Kartamyscheff, in Sulina and Galați; Eugeniu Boutkevitch, Galați and Sulina; Jean Lazzaro, Galați and Sulina).

The Russian consular network in the aforementioned port cities functioned in a complementary manner with the agencies of the Russian shipping companies in the sustained activities of promoting the political and economic interests of the Tsarist Empire in the Danubian–Pontic region.

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