

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ROMANIA

The National Library of Romania owns two patrimonial collections located in Bucharest and Alba Iulia (the “Batthyaneum Library” Branch). The core of the Special Collections in Bucharest is represented by a series of archives that belonged to the Romanian Athenaeum Library which subsequently grew and became more diversified through various acquisitions, donations, and transfers. They currently hold almost all types of bibliophile and patrimonial documents. The “Batthyaneum Library” Branch of the National Library located in Alba Iulia (hung. *Gyulafehérvár*, lat. *Apulum*, germ. *Weißenburg*, since 1711 *Karlsburg*) was established in 1798 by the Roman Catholic bishop of Transylvania Ignác Batthyány (1741-1798), as a part of a cultural foundation originally called *Institutum Batthyani Albæ Carolinae*. Bishop Batthyány’s personal collection was the core of the library. The publications (the manuscripts collection, together with the old books and the contemporary documents collections) now amount to 72,000 bibliographical units of encyclopaedic nature. The library also includes a rich museum collection. The article highlights the most important documents part of these two collections and also provides information on the “Polonica” collection, part of the Special Collections of the National Library of Romania: documents of Polish origin, works which were copied, purchased or held by Poles or which deal with events in Polish history and the lives of Polish saints.

The Special Collections of the National Library of Romania, the Bucharest Headquarters

The core of the **Special Collections in Bucharest** is represented by a series of archives that belonged to the Romanian Athenaeum Library, a representative cultural and academic institution in the late nineteenth and

early twentieth centuries¹. The collections subsequently grew and became more diversified through various acquisitions, donations, transfers, etc. They currently hold almost all types of bibliophile and patrimonial documents.

The department is structured according to the specific content of each collection into seven separate compartments as follows: Bibliophile Documents, Manuscripts, Historical Archive, Old Romanian Periodicals, Prints, Photographs, Cartography. In addition, the library has an Audio-video Documents Department which holds a collection of sheet music and collections of records on different media ranging from gramophone disks to CDs and DVDs.

The **Bibliophile Documents Cabinet** holds about 53,000 bibliographical units – incunabula, old books, rare and bibliophile books, historical documents, bills. The Romanian book collection consists of 7,043 titles (12,638 bibliographical units) and includes rare books printed between 1508 and 1830 on the national and political territory of Romania, as well as in printing centres abroad, such as those in Uniev, Rome, Lvov, Aleppo, St. Petersburg, Venice, Vienna, Buda, Leipzig, Tiflis, Paris or Ausbach which printed Romanian books for the Romanian Principalities.

The National Library holds in its collections old and rare prints such as: a copy of “The Slavonic Missal” printed by the monk Macarius, of Serbian origin, the only original copy on the Romanian territory of the “Slavonic Acts of the Apostles”, and one copy of the “Slavonic Prayer Book”, the latter two having been printed between 1545 and 1547 by Dimitrie Liubavici.

The modern bibliophile book collection is composed of rare and precious editions, *editiones principes*, author’s editions, luxury editions illustrated by renowned Romanian artists or having special artistic binding, editions printed on special paper or on precious materials. The *editio princeps* of Eminescu’s poems printed in 1883, as well as the *editiones principes* and the definitive editions of the classics of Romanian literature such as the representatives of the Transylvanian School, Timotei Cipariu, Ion Heliade Rădulescu, Vasile Alecsandri, Mihai Eminescu, George Coșbuc, Alexandru Vlahuță, Alexandru Odobescu, Mihail Sadoveanu, Camil Petrescu, Tudor Arghezi, etc. or of the historians Nicolae Iorga and A. D. Xenopol are worth being mentioned.

The collection of books in foreign languages is highly humanistic – it contains almost all the classical authors from Antiquity to the twentieth century – *editiones principes*, first editions, original and definitive editions, editions including scholarly comments by world famous personalities such as Donatus, Erasmus, Melancton, Guillaume Budé, Paulus Manutius or Henri Estienne, editions illustrated by famous artists such as Pierre Le Rouge, Wolgemuth, Lucas Kranach, Gustave Doré, etc.

1 I.e., the collections of the “Ion I. C. Brătianu” Cultural Institute; the document collection of the “Al. Saint-Georges” Museum; of the “M. Kogălniceanu” Foundation; the “Scarlat Rosetti”, “Exarcu”, and “Gheorghe Adamescu” collections.



Fig. 1. *Slavonic Liturgikon* printed at Dealu Monastery by the monk Macarie in 1508. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Old and rare Romanian books. Photo by E. Tirziman

The Collection of Bills includes documents various in terms of content: election posters of parties and personalities that ran for elections, calls regarding specific political or social events, instructions issued by the authorities, lists of subscriptions to raise money in order to build monuments, circular letters, ordination diplomas, certificates confirming a Masonic order, decrees granting orders and medals, various calls including the call written and signed by Lajos Batthyány – “Romanian Brothers” or the call of King Ferdinand I of Romania to the citizens on the occasion of Romania’s joining the war, proclamations – for example, of Emperor Franz Joseph I to the peoples of the empire, on the occasion of his ascent to the throne, issued in Olmütz in 1848 or the release by King Carol I of Romania when the Balkan war broke out in 1913.

The Manuscripts Cabinet contains nearly 40,000 bibliographical units, unique documents of great variety both in terms of presentation and source that have unfortunately been lesser studied so far. We are referring to the Latin, Arabic, Persian, Slavic, Greek manuscripts: approximately 30,000 bibliographic units of correspondence and diary pages (Titu Maiorescu, Martha Bibescu, George Enescu, Simona Lahovari, Mircea Eliade, Emil Cioran, Vasile Voiculescu, Mihail Sebastian etc.), liter-

ary manuscripts (O. Goga, N. Iorga, I. Pillat, Duiliu Zamfirescu, L. Blaga, Camil Petrescu, M. Sadoveanu, Tudor Arghezi, G. Călinescu, etc.). There are, for example, two large paper rolls containing fragments of Torah in Hebrew. There are about 20 Turkish firmans and an Indian manuscript on dried palm leaves.

Of the bibliographical units mentioned above, around 1,500 book-type manuscripts, 35,000 bibliographical units constitute the collection of letters, the rest – to 40,000 – are various documents and even official papers. The book manuscripts vary in format, dating, and content, from a large format manuscript written in Latin on parchment dating from the fourteenth century to a small Persian manuscript of hexagonal shape, from ancient religious texts, such as a *Slavic Gospel Book* from the thirteenth century to the *Great Canon* of Agapius the Cretan copied and illustrated in the nineteenth century by the miniature artist Picu Pătruț. The collections also include manuscripts in Greek, Latin, Arabic, and Turkish.

The Historical Archive Cabinet accommodates a substantial archival collection regrouped in separate archival units: the “Saint Georges”, “Brătianu”, “Kogălniceanu”, and “Bălcescu” collections. It also includes

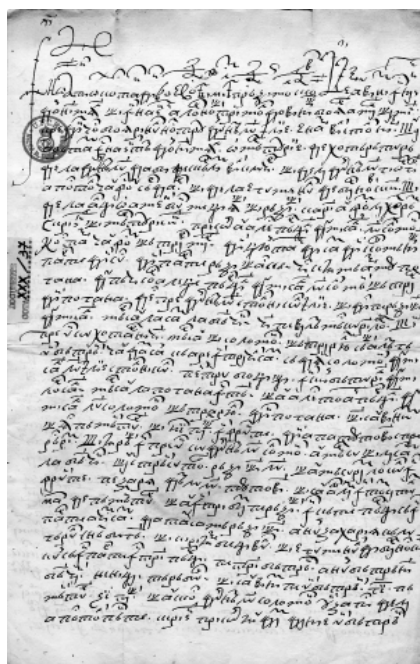


Fig. 2. Document issued by Antioch Cantemir's chancery, September 1696. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, The Historic Archives. Photo by E. Tirziman

a historical documents collection dating from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries and other smaller collections that are currently being set up.

The *“Saint Georges” Collection* is the largest of them, with over 4,000 archival units. It originated in the collections of the “Saint Georges” museum and contains a wide variety of documents covering the Romanian history of the sixteenth to the twentieth century, perseveringly collected by Alexander Saint Georges. The collections of documents and plans of architects Dumitru Berindei (1832-1884), Paul Smărăndescu (1881-1945), Dimitrie Maimarolu (1859-1926), Edmond van Saanen Algi (1871-1938) are an important resource for researching the Romanian architecture history.

The documents of the *“Brătianu” Collection* reflect the activity of the Forty-Eighter generation who took part in the events that led to the development of modern Romania: the Revolution of 1848, the post-revolutionary period, the exile of some revolutionaries, the political and diplomatic efforts prior to achieving the Union of the Romanian Principalities in 1859, the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the establishment of the monarchy in 1866, the War of Independence, and the proclamation of the Kingdom in 1881. The political life in the second half of the nineteenth century, with an emphasis on the activity of the personalities that were to contribute to the birth of the National Liberal Party and Liberal governments are documented in the official and private correspondence of the Brătianu, D.A. Sturdza, Mihail Kogălniceanu, and C.A. Rosetti families. Ion C. Brătianu’s political activity is highlighted by a rich collection of diplomatic correspondence dating from his tenure as a foreign minister (1902-1904) and the neutrality period preceding Romania’s joining World War I (1914 -1916).

The *“Kogălniceanu” Collection* originates in the archive of the “Kogălniceanu” Foundation created in 1935 and aimed at “keeping alive the cult for Mihail Kogălniceanu”. One of its most ambitious goals was to create a historical and literary research institute that was to study the documents that belonged to the Foundation. This collection holds papers and documents of the “Kogălniceanu” Foundation since it was established in 1935 until 1948 when its collections were transferred to the “Bălcescu” Institute.

The *“Bălcescu” Collection* contains the archive of the “Bălcescu” Institute, founded by the new authorities installed in Romania after 1948. This institution brought together, for some time, other collections of cultural institutions that had been abusively closed down. The documents of this collection present the political activity of the Moldavian boyars during 1820-1848, the Revolution of 1821 and the activities of the “Eteria” organization in Moldova, the demands of the boyars in 1821 after the outbreak of “Eteria”, the activity of the Romanian revolutionaries in 1848 and the post-revolution exile period, letters by Nicolae Bălcescu, Constantin Daniel Rosenthal, I. Maiorescu, Jules Michelet, Vasile Alecsandri, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Ion Ghica, Cezar Bolliac, petitions of the Public Assembly, etc.

The Fifteenth to Seventeenth Centuries Document Collection contains documents relating to the estates and properties in Wallachia and Moldavia. It was completely digitized and can be found – partially, on the publication of this article – on the website of the National Library of Romania's Virtual Library.



Fig. 3. The newspaper “Curentul”, XII, September 4, 1939. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Romanian serials. Photo by E. Tîrziman

The Old Romanian Periodicals Collection (from the early nineteenth century to 1948) comprises calendars, almanacs, yearbooks, annals, newspapers, publications issued by political parties, cultural, literary, law, economics journals, etc. The documents that make up this collection are newspapers, magazines, calendars (*Calendar antic* [*The Antique Calendar*], 1862, 1863, *Calendarul aromânesc* [*The Aromanian Calendar*], 1911, 1912, *Calendarul Ghimpelui*, [*Calendar of the Thorn*], 1874, 1875, etc.); almanacs (*Almanah literar ilustrat* [*Illustrated Literary Almanac*], 1886, *Almanahul României June* [*Almanac of Young Romania*], published in Vienna, 1883, 1888, *Almanahul revistei Veselia* [*Almanac of the Joy Magazine*], 1929, etc.), yearbooks (*Anuarul Arhidioczei ortodoxe a Bucovinei* [*Yearbook of the Orthodox Archdiocese of Bukovina*] published in Chernivtsi in 1928, *Anuarul arhivei de folklor* [*Yearbook of the Folklore Archive*], 1932, 1937, etc.), annals (*Analele Academiei Române* [*Annals of the Romanian Acad-*

emy], 1867-1942, *Analele Institutului Meteorologic al României*, [*Annals of the Romanian Meteorological Institute*], 1897-1903, etc.), various bulletins (*Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice* [*Bulletin of the Historical Monuments Board*], 1908-1944, *Buletinul Curții de Casație și Justiție* [*Bulletin of the Court of Cassation and Justice*], 1862-1946 etc.) and an important collection of Official Gazettes of 1829-1953, which includes legislation of this period, as well as the minutes of the legislative councils meetings of the Romanian Parliament from 1829 to 1947.

The Prints Cabinet holds a rich collection that includes Romanian and foreign drawings in pencil, ink, watercolour, pastel; modern and contemporary Romanian engravings, European engravings, Japanese prints, ex libris of Romanian and foreign authors, original works and reproductions whose printing technique, author or topic are of particular interest to the field – reproductions of vintage prints, printed lithographs, albums with original engravings, etc.

The Collection of Romanian Graphic Arts (approximately 10,400 bibliographic units) comprises early representative works of the genre, from works by Carol Pop de Szatmary and Teodor Aman, to creations by Nicolae Grigorescu, Sava Henția, Theodor Pallady, Iosif Iser, Francisc Șirato, Jean Al. Steriadi, Nicolae Tonitza. It also includes works by some important Romanian contemporary graphic artists, such as Marcel Chirnoagă, Lucia Cosmescu, Geta Brătescu, Sonia Barcianu-Petrașcu, Ștefan Constantinescu, etc.

The Foreign Graphic Collection (ca. 5,540 bibliographic units) consists mostly of productions of art schools: mainly French, but also Italian, English, German, covering a span of three hundred years (the seventeenth to twentieth centuries). The collection includes lithographs signed by Auguste Raffet, Alois von Saar, Eugene Ciceri, Karl Bodmer, artists who visited Romania in the nineteenth century, whose lithographs are interesting from a historical point of view: they describe Romanian settlements, landscapes, customs, and costumes of that time.

The Exlibris Collection includes approximately 18,000 bibliographic units, both original engravings and printed reproductions by Romanian, German, Czech, Hungarian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, and Chinese contemporary artists.

The cabinet holds a large number of *Japanese prints*, approximately 800 bibliographic units dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Photography Cabinet: approximately 113,000 bibliographic units – original photographs and illustrated postcards. The collection consists of photographs, albums and illustrated postcards, glass photographic plates illustrating the evolution of photography in Romania. The Romanian photographic art is represented by the creations of Carol Pop de Szathmari, Franz Duschek, Franz Mandy, Jean and Otto Bielig,

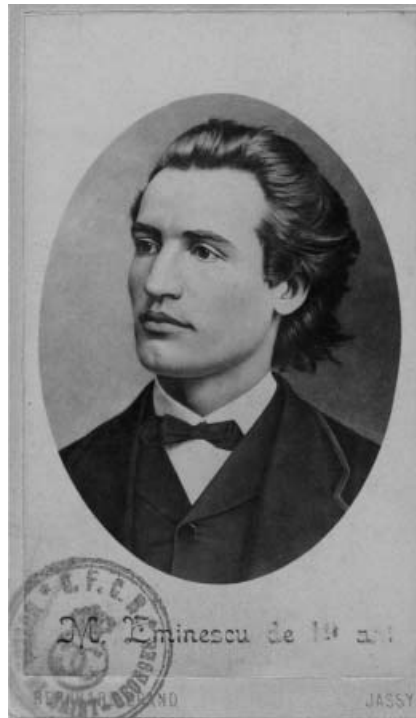


Fig. 4. Mihai Eminescu - photo by Bernhard Brand, Iași. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, The Photography Collection



Fig. 5. Bucharest - Calea Victoriei, interwar period. Photo by Joseph Berman. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, The Photography Collection



Fig. 6. Bucharest - Calea Victoriei, interwar period. Photo by Joseph Berman. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, The Photography Collection

M. Spirescu, M. Wandelman, Anatole Magrin, Nestor Heck, A. Schivert, W. Wollenteit, Cecilia Cavallar, I. Spirescu, A.D. Reiser, B. Brand, Emile Fisher, Iosif Berman.

The Romanian postcard collection features copies of the oldest and best-known Romanian postcards editions, for instance the collection "Greetings from Romania" created by Emile Fisher and W. Wollenteit featuring landscapes from the country.

The Cartography Cabinet comprises approximately 4,300 bibliographical units – historical, linguistic, ethnographic, demographic, military, and tourist maps, topographical maps and plans, plans of cities and states, ca. 1,000 geographical, geological, climatic, meteorological, hydrographic atlases, books with maps of the soil and the environment which provide important information on both the Romanian and world history.

The following cartographic works are worth being mentioned – due to their rarity, as well as their documentary importance: "Daciarum Moesiarumque Vetus Descriptio" by Philippus Cliverius, one of the drawings of the Ottoman Empire map entitled "La Moldavie, la Walakie et la Transylvanie", three copies, annexes of "Histoire de la Geographie", entitled "Typus Orbis Terrarum" (Abraham Ortelius, 1587), "Cartographie de Moyen Âge", with additions. The National Library of Romania holds a copy of the map

entitled “Romaniae quae olim Thracia dictate est vicinorumquae regionum Bulgariae, Walachiae, Syrviae” drawn by Iacobo Castaldo in 1584. The atlases – “Atlas Maritimo de España”, two volumes, 1786, “Schauplatz der Fünf Theile der Welt” by Franz Johan and Joseph von Reilly, 1789 – are also of great historical value. The Audio-Visual Cabinet: gramophone records, discs, CDs, DVDs, music sheets, monographs, etc.

The “Batthyaneum Library” Branch of the National Library, Alba Iulia

The library was established on July 31, 1798 by the Roman Catholic bishop of Transylvania Ignác Batthyány (1741-1798), as a part of a cultural foundation originally called *Institutum Batthyaniani Albae Carolinae* [Batthyani's Institute in Alba Iulia]. Initially, the Institute included, apart from the library, an astronomic observatory, history and natural science collections, bookbinding and printing workshops designed to support its activities.

In 1782, a year after arriving in Transylvania, Batthyány Ignác bought the library of Cristoforo Migazzi (1714-1803), cardinal-archbishop of Vienna and intimate adviser of the emperor. This acquisition enriched Bishop of Transylvania's library by over eight thousand volumes of Central and Western European origin, including many valuable manuscripts and printed documents of exceptional bibliophile value. These collections were added to the ones originating in Transylvania: after arriving in Transylvania, the bishop took over the small but valuable library collections of some dissolved religious orders: Jesuits, Trinitarians, Unitarians, Anabaptists (the latter abolished as early as 1783).

The traditional *visitatio canonica* represented a good opportunity to gather valuable manuscripts and books from the libraries of the visited parishes. The donations by Transylvanian private individuals and institutions were another means of enriching Bishop of Transylvania's library. Bishop Batthyány Ignác's personal collection was the core of the library of the Batthyani Institute in Alba Iulia and is nowadays the golden collection of the library. The library operated continuously after 1824. In 1951 the library was entitled “The Batthyaneum Documentary Library” and in 1962 it became a subsidiary of the National Library of Romania.

The Library Collections

The publications (the manuscripts collection, together with the old books and the contemporary documents collections) now amount to 72,000 bibliographical units. All collections are encyclopaedic containing significant works in the fields of history, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, etc., though the theological disciplines are dominant.

The collections comprise the works of Greek and Latin classic authors, as well as works by humanists and by the representatives of classicism, romanticism, Enlightenment, and positivism.

As with all libraries including old books collections, most of the works are written in Latin, the language of culture from the Antiquity to the twentieth century, although there are works written in European, North African, and Asian languages and dialects.

From the academic and bibliophile documentation point of view, the most important collection is the **manuscript collection**. It totals 1,775 bibliographic units that illustrate the European and Transylvanian culture and literature of the ninth to twentieth centuries. The works are in Latin, German, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Armenian, Arabic, and Turkish. Over a hundred manuscripts-codices are copied on parchment and 66 are illustrated.

The international reputation of the library is due to its holding the oldest Western medieval illuminated codex in Romania, i.e. *Codex Aureus* or *Das Lorscher Evangeliar. I. Theil* [The Lorsch Gospels. Part I.], as the manuscript is known in the Western literature. It is a fragment of a *Latin Four Gospels* entirely written and painted with gold ink and plant-derived colours on parchment in the scriptorium of the Court school (Schola Palatina) in Aachen (Aix la Chapelle) in 810, following Charlemagne's order. *Das Lorscher Evangeliar* [The Lorsch Gospels] synthesises in a superlative manner the artistic and calligraphic performance of the Carolingian era illustrating the cult for beautiful books.

Among the manuscripts of great bibliophile value: *Biblia Sacra* (the thirteenth century), *Psalterium Davidicum cum calendario* (the thirteenth

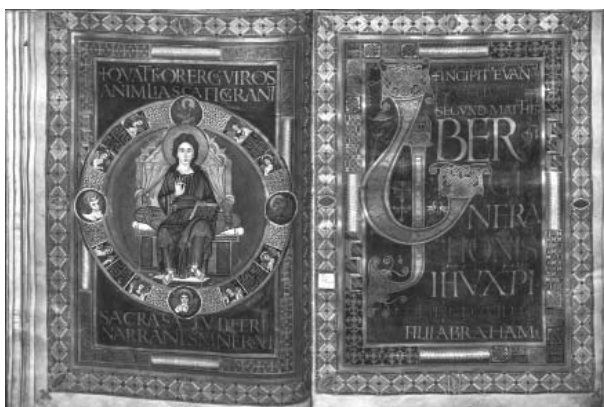


Fig. 7. *Codex Auerus*, 9-th century illuminated manuscript, National Library of Romania, Batthyaneum Branch. Photo by E. Tirziman

century), *Missale Strigoniense* (1377), *Horae canonicae latine et gallice alias Codex Burgundus* (the fourteenth to fifteenth centuries), *Promissio Andreae Vendramini ducis Venetiarum* (1476), etc.

The **Incunabula Collection** comprises 571 bibliographic units, most of them part of the original book collection of the library, placing the library in terms of the collection size and value on the first position among the Romanian libraries that hold collections of this type. 225 publishing workshops or houses that operated in 40 towns or cities are represented in the library collection, including: Venice, Augsburg, Cologne, Nuremberg, Strasbourg, Rome, Milan, etc. The collection preserves works by some of the most prominent printers such as Anton Koberger, Johann Amerbach, Erhard Ratdolt, Nicolas Jenson, Anton Sorg, Johann Zainer, Aldo Manuzio, etc.

The oldest incunabulum is Lucius Apuleius Madarensis' *Opera* printed in Rome by the pioneers of the Italian typography Konrad Sweynheym and Arnold Pannartz on February 28, 1469. There are over thirty *editiones principes* and a large number of rare editions. Among the *editiones principes*: Macrobius: *In somnium Scipionis expositio. Saturnalia* (Venezia, Nicolas Jenson, 1472), Tertullianus: *Apologeticus contra gentiles* (Venezia, Bernardino Benalio, 1494), Lucanus: *Pharsalia* (Venezia, Juvenis Guerninus, 1477), Quintilianus: *Institutiones oratoriae* (Roma, Giovanni Filippo Lignamine, 1470), etc.

The edition of Ovid's work *Epistolae heroides*, printed in Milan by Petrus Martyr on 22 July, 1494, is considered a unique edition as it is not registered by any specialty catalogues. The Batthyaneum Library preserves a copy of the first and monumental edition of the works of Homer printed in Firenze, in 1488, edited by the Cretan Demetrius Kalkondylas, the famous Florentine university professor. This is also the only edition of the fifteenth century. The collection holds some editions part of the range of Greek printed documents issued by Aldo Manuzio's printing presses in Venice, such as Theocritus: *Idyll* (1495), Aristophanes: *Comoediae* (1498), the only edition of that century, Aristoteles: *Opera* (1495-1498), five volumes folio, an *editio princeps* and also the most beautiful product of Aldo Manuzio's press prior to 1500. Many ancient author's editions published before 1500 are accompanied by philological commentaries by famous humanists illustrating the text criticism, one of the great achievements of humanist philology. Numerous incunabula preserve the original bindings and wood covers wrapped in ornamented leather (cold-pressed), of great artistic and documentary value. The works feature both the old German Gothic binding as well as the specific Renaissance binding techniques.

The Old Book Collection printed between 1500 and 1800 in various European publishing houses or workshops totals 24,000 bibliographic units, 7,950 of which date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Batthyaneum Library preserves some of the great productions of Euro-

pean publishing houses by the “dynasties” of scholarly editors and printers who played an important role in the European publishing activity – such as *aldina*, *frobeniana*, *estienna*, *plantiniana*, and *elzeviriana*. This contributed to the preservation of the most valuable works of the ancient and modern culture – in stylish editions, handy formats, printed under outstanding graphical conditions. The collections in Alba Iulia comprise *editiones principes*, original editions or definitive editions, editions of complete works, editions of works commented by famous philologists, editions illustrated with woodcuts drawn by famous artists, with artistic and period binding. Over 660 complete or partial editions of the Bible are printed in thirty European, North African and Asian languages and dialects.



Fig. 8. The Bible, printed by Anton Koberger at Nuremberg in 1483. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Old and rare foreign books. Photo by E. Tirziman

The Transylvanian books printed in Latin, Hungarian, German, and Romanian are particularly represented by the copies printed by Honterus in Braşov, by Heltai and Tótfalusi Kis Miklós in Cluj, etc.

The range of rare Romanian documents preserved by the Batthyaneum Library include: *Palia* [partial translation of the Old Testament] (Orăştie,

1582), *The New Testament* (Bălgrad [Alba Iulia], 1648), *Sicriul de Aur* [*The Golden Coffin*] (Sebeș, 1683), *The Gospel* (Blaj, 1765), *Îndreptarea Legii* [*Law Codex*] (Târgoviște, 1652), *Evangelhia învățătoare* [*The Teaching Gospel*] (Dealul Monastery, 1644), *The Psalter* (Râmnic, 1743), etc.

Approximately 9,500 old periodicals together with 3,600 new periodicals illustrate the journals, magazines, and newspapers with European or local circulation.

The library also preserves other collections of **archival or museum value**. The archival document collection consists mainly of the archives of the Roman Catholic Capitulum in Alba Iulia and of the Convent of Cluj-Mănăștur (about 17,163 documents), as well as the handwritten correspondence of some Roman Catholic bishops of Transylvania (43,081 documents). The archives of the Alba Iulia Capitulum and of the Convent of Cluj-Mănăștur constitute a type of diplomatic sources documenting the history of the medieval Transylvania as resulting from the activity of these institutions from the thirteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century.

The museum collections include: coins (3,735 pieces – Greek, Roman, and Dacian), seals (59 pieces), medals (28 pieces), awards (6), decorative medallions (42 pieces), banknotes (238 pieces), ore pieces (3,000 stones, rocks, crystals), molluscs (208 species, 685 items) astronomical instruments (53 pieces), horologes (2), religious art objects (335 pieces), fabric (215 pieces, Catholic service vestments), paintings (100 pieces), prehistoric pieces of the Bronze or Iron Age and antique and medieval pieces (470 items), ex libris (approximately 1,635 pieces).

“Polonica” in the Special Collections of the National Library of Romania

One can undoubtedly speak of a **“Polonica”** collection part of the Special Collections of the National Library of Romania both in its headquarters in Bucharest and the one in Alba Iulia: documents of Polish origin, materials which were copied, purchased or held by the Poles or which deal with events in Polish history and lives of Polish saints.

The European project “REDISCOVER” in which the National Library of Romania and the National Library of Poland were partners occasioned a bibliographical investigation on the existence of such a document collection. Of the book collection dating from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries and based in Bucharest 223 titles were identified that were either printed on the territory of Poland, or written by Polish authors or are related to the Polish history and culture. A lot of these books deal with the historical relations between the Romanian people and the Polish people. The *Historia Alexandri Magni incunabulum*, printed in 1489 by Georg Husner in Argentine (Strasbourg) which has handwritten annotations in Latin, English, Italian, and Polish is an example in this regard. The National Library has in its collection of old



Fig. 9. Maciej z Miechowa. *Chronica Polonorum*. Impressum Crocovie: per Hieronymum Vietorem, 1521. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Old and rare foreign books. Photo by E. Tîrziman

foreign books of the sixteenth century six books printed in Krakow. The oldest of them is an edition of Aristotle's *De anima* printed in 1512 by the Bavarian typographer Florian Ungler. Another work in the library has the same source: *Quaestiones librorum de anima*, published in 1513 and *Introductorium Astronomiae in Ephemerides*, 1514². Printers whose works are present in the NLR collections: Hieronymus Vietor who printed in 1521 *Chronica Polonorum* by the Polish historian, geographer, and astrologer Maciej z Miechowa (Miechowita), the Krakow printer Matthaeus Siebeneycher, who printed in 1566 *Ecloga I, in qua eat iucunda RD Domino Stanislao Slomovio...* – the copy owned by NLR has the coat of arms of Filip Padniewski, bishop of Krakow on the title page. In 1578, the first master printer of Polish origin Maciej Wirzbięta created *Sarmatiae Europae Descriptio, quam Regnum Poloniae, Lituaniam, Samogitiam, Rusiam...* by Alessandro Guagnini, a book containing the arms of Poland and the author's coat of arms on the last page. The National Library holds four copies of the 1595 edition of *Tartariae descriptio, ante hac in lucem numquam edita, cum tabula geographica eiusdem Chersonesus Tauricae, Coloniae Aggripinae: in officina Birckmanica* (one of them originating in Poland, according to the

² Book printed by Florian and Wolfgang Ungler, work authored by Jan z Glogowa (Glogovien-ses Joannes, 1445-1507), philosopher, geographer, astronomer, and professor at the Krakow University, of German descent.

stamp ex libris: *Rhedigersche Stadt-Bibliothek zu Breslau*, Wrocław) by Marcin Broniowski (ca. 1568-1624), a Polish historian, cartographer, and diplomat.

Another important author, Marcin Kromer (1512-1589), a Polish cartographer, diplomat, historian, and private secretary to two Polish kings (Sigismund I and Sigismund II), is represented in the NLR collections by his work *De origine et rebus gestis Polonorum libri XXX*, Basileae: ex officina Oporiniana, 1568; Coloniae: apud Maternum Cholinum, 1578; Coloniae Agrippinae: in officina Birkmannica, 1589 (edition including maps engraved by Waclaw Grodecki and Matthias Strubicz, the official cartographer of King Stefan Batory).

The “Batthyaneum Library” branch in Alba Iulia has 28 medieval manuscripts on vellum that are directly related to the Polish territory. The main field is religion represented by specific works of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, such as *Opera theologica*, *Opera ascetica*, *Tractatus theologici*, *Sermones*, *Passionale sanctorum*, *Compendium statutorum*, *Regulae perfectionis*,

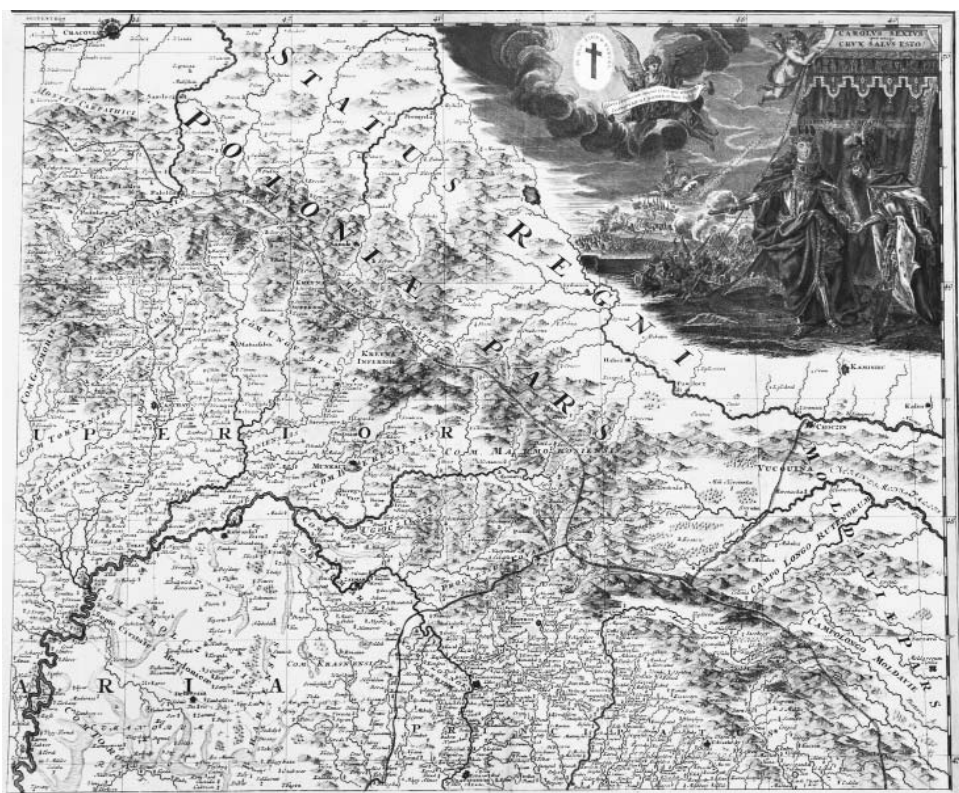


Fig. 10. Homann, Johann Baptist - [Status Regni Poloniae, Moldavia Pars], Nüremberg, 1719, Engraving. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Cartographic materials collection. Photo by E. Tirziman

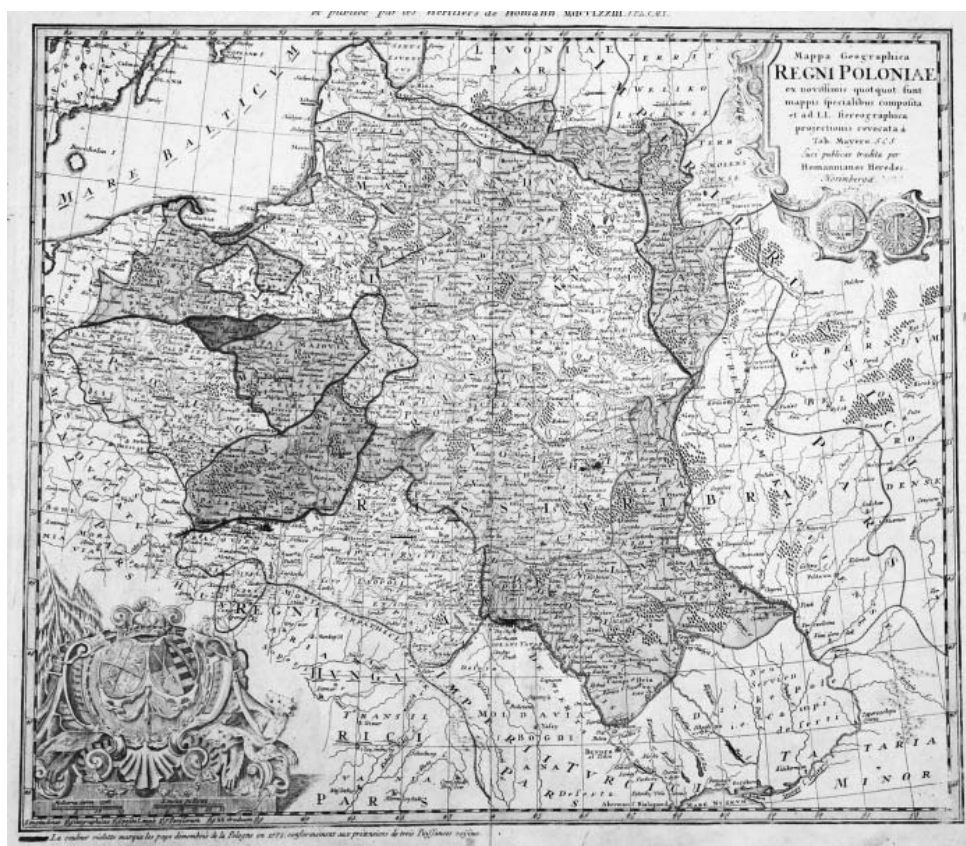


Fig. 11. Mayer Tobias *Mappa Geographica Regni Poloniae es novissimis quotquot sunt mapis specialibus composita*, edit. Heritiers do Homann, Nüremberg, 1773, Engraving. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Cartographic materials collection. Photo by E. Tirziman

synodaliūm by different authors or copyists, having been copied and stored in various locations. The name of Professor and Bishop Matthaеus of Krakow is often encountered as the author of the treaties (*Tractatus teologici*, s. XV, a/ *Matthaеus de Cracovia ep.: dialogus rationis et conscientiae*, two different copies, *Tractatus de contractibus*, s. XV), along with other names such as Martinus Strebski Polonus OP. AEP. *Margarita decreti* in his *Opera juridica*, 1479, or Caspar Druzbiecki's eighteenth-century work *Dux in via*. The Polish incunabulum printed in Krakow and cataloged as *Turrecremata*, *Johannes de, Expositio Psalterii, Krakow, typographus Turrecrematae Expositio Psalterii, Kaspar Straube*, cca 1476-1477, 150f, INC. V 122, coll. 2. is also worth mentioning as part of the Batthyaneum Library collections.

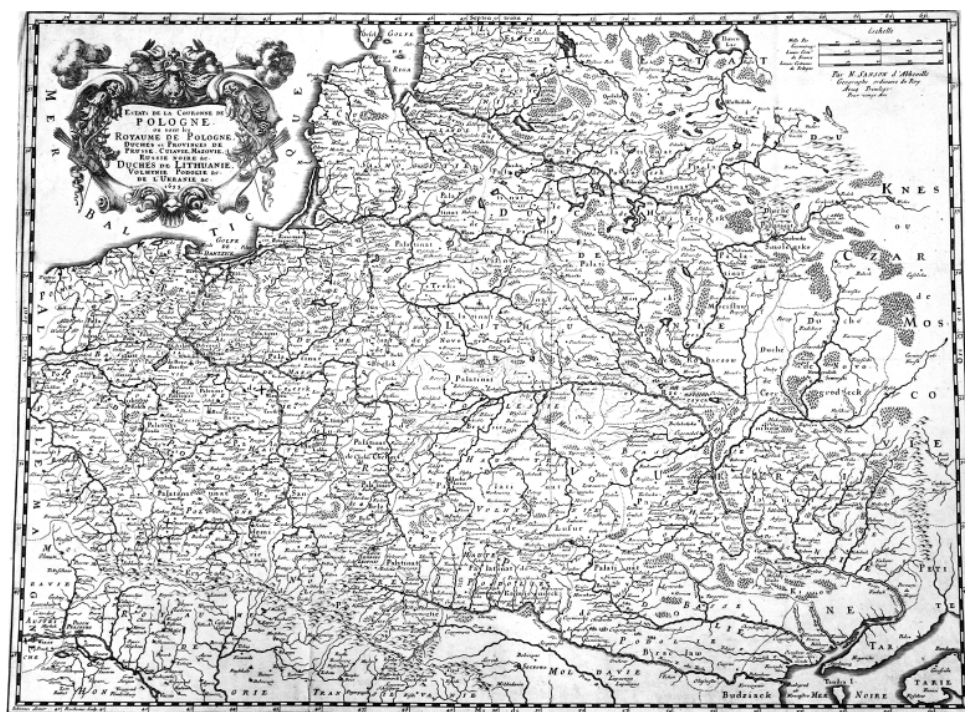


Fig. 12. Sanson, Nicolas - *Estats De La Couronne de Pologne, où sons les Royaumes De Pologne, Duches et Provinces De Prusse, Cuiavie, Mazovie, Russie Noire & Duches De Lithuanie, Volynie, Podolie et De l'Ukraine*, Paris, 1655, Engraving, National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Cartographic materials collection. Photo by E. Tirziman

Conclusions

The Special Collections held by the two above-mentioned branches of the National Library of Romania are representative not only of the Romanian, but also of the European and world culture and civilisation, illustrating the Romanian society on different stages of its evolution, as well as its contacts with the European and Oriental areas. Its collections include extremely valuable documents, testimonies to important national and international historical events; documents reflecting remarkable cultural contact between different nations; documents of real academic, artistic, and patrimonial value. The library permanently acts towards the presentation and valorisation of its documentary heritage by means of editorial and digitization projects so that the Romanian cultural heritage should be added to the universal cultural heritage which it is naturally connected to.

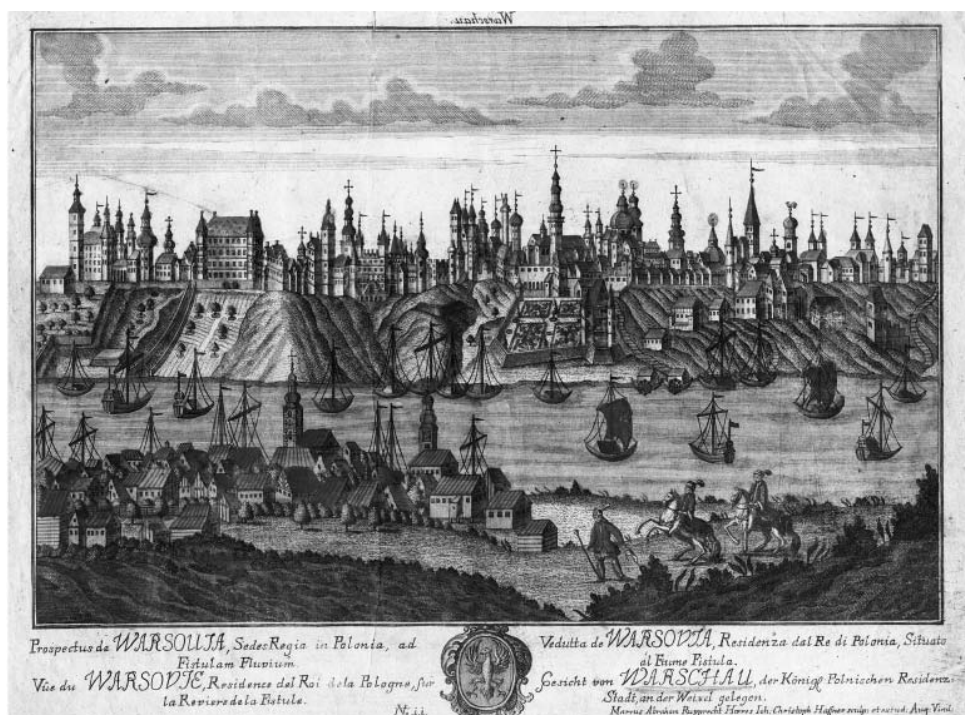


Fig. 13. Ruprecht, Marx-Abraham - *Prospectus de Warsoula Sedes Regia in Polonia, ed Fistula Fluvium*, Augsburg, 1760. National Library of Romania, Special Collections Department, Engravings collection. Photo by E. Tirziman

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Elena Tîrziman

Zbiory Specjalne Rumuńskiej Biblioteki Narodowej

Streszczenie

Biblioteka Narodowa Rumunii gromadzi dwie kolekcje historyczne, znajdujące się w Bukareszcie i w Alba Iulia, to oddział "Batthyaneum Library", utworzony w 1798 przez biskupa katolickiego Transylwanii Ignacego Batthyány (1741-1798). Trzon zbiorów specjalnych w Bukareszcie stanowiło wiele archiwaliów, które należały do rumuńskiej Biblioteki Athenaeum, a kolekcja powiększała się dzięki zakupom, darowiznom i wymianom zbiorów. Jedną z części zbiorów specjalnych są "Polonica", na które składają się to dokumenty polskiego pochodzenia, dzieła, które zostały skopiowane, nabyte lub posiadane przez Polaków lub które dotyczą wydarzeń polskiej historii i żywotów polskich świętych.

Słowa kluczowe: Biblioteka Narodowa Rumunii, zbiory specjalne, polonica