

**DR. CONSTANTIN ANGELESCU,  
THE FIRST ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT IN WASHINGTON**

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**Abstract.** USA's entry into the war as part of the Allied Powers called for Romania to open a diplomatic channel with its new ally. The first chief of the Romanian Legation in Washington was Dr. Constantin Angelescu, who presented his letters of credence to President Wilson on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

On the basis of the available literature and, in particular, the documentary materials from the manuscripts funds of the Library of the Romanian Academy, this paper presents Dr Constantin Angelescu's diplomatic work, aimed at convincing Washington of the legitimacy of the national aspiration for a United Romania. In this sense, it was necessary to inform and, perchance, win over the American public, etc. This objective could have only been achieved with the support of the Romanian-American community, reason for which Angelescu carried out a sustained propaganda campaign involving numerous travels, meetings and public conferences with the influential echelons of the Romanian diaspora in the US.

During his stay in the U.S.A, Dr C. Angelescu oversaw and advised the **Patriotic Mission** sent by the Romanian Government, which consisted of the Transylvanian-Romanian priests Vasile Lucaciu and Ion Moța and active soldier Vasile Stoica.

**Key words:** World War I; the first Romanian Legation in Washington; Dr. C. Angelescu, the first Romanian diplomat in Washington; Ferdinand, King of Romania; Ion I.C. Brătianu, Prime-Minister of Romania; Wilson, President of the United States of America; The Romanian Patriotic Mission; sublieutenant Vasile Stoica; B.J. Braunstein, President of the *Illinois Branch of the American Union of Romanian Jews*; *The Charter of Allegiance and Submission of the Orthodox Romanians in the United States of America to the Holy Metropolitan Church of Hungro-Walachia*; Charles Vopicka, the American ambassador in Romania.

The United States of America had opened a Legation in Bucharest as early as 1880<sup>1</sup>. Romania's southern neighbors - Bulgaria and Serbia - had had Legations in Washington since 1913 and 1916 respectively. Turkey also had diplomatic representation starting with 1913. Charles Vopicka, the American minister in Bucharest, had brought up on several occasions the urgency of founding a Romanian

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<sup>1</sup> Eugène Schuyler was appointed "*Diplomatic agent and Consul General of the United States near His Royal Highness the Sovereign Prince of Romania*" cf. *Reprezentanțele diplomatice ale României, vol. I, 1859-1917*, București, Editura Politică, 1967, p. 375-376.