

THE CONTRIBUTION OF DOCTOR CONSTANTIN D. ANGELESCU TO THE CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF GREATER ROMANIA

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Abstract. Doctor Constantin D. Angelescu (1869-1948) was one of the remarkable figures of the scientific, cultural and political life of Romania. He was preoccupied with the formation of Greater Romania. He strived so that, at the end of the First World War, the Kingdom of Romania would be joined with the territories that were under foreign rule: Bessarabia, Bukovina, Transylvania. After the formation of Greater Romania, Doctor Angelescu struggled so that through education the entire population of Romania would be homogenized and united. He managed to build over 6 000 schools that had spread the Romanian language among all the children that were following the primary, secondary, high school in the Kingdom of Romania. Thus he accomplished the correction of an educational system that until then was professed in Russian in Bessarabia, in Hungarian in Transylvania, in German in Banat and Bukovina. His work was struck by the Communist regime. He died killed by communists on September 14 1948, in the Saint Vincent de Paul Hospital.

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An emblematic personality of Romanian culture, science, education, and medicine, Doctor Constantin D. Angelescu (1869-1948) is also remarkable through his battle for the creation and strengthening of Greater Romania. After being named minister of Public Works between 4 January 1914 and 10 December 1916, he had to manage the organization of the sanitary service of the army. Secretly, Ion I. C. Brătianu had asked him to supervise the transports that arrived from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and from the German Empire, comprising weaponry, ammunition and equipment, headed towards the Sublime Porte and the Kingdom of Bulgaria. With the help of the Romanian gendarmes and border guards, Dr C. Angelescu confiscated the military charge from those trains.²

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2 Doctor Constantin D. Angelescu, in order to be informed, had used among others the young and beautiful ladies of Oltenia, who slipped in the Austro-Hungarian and German trains, charmed the military men who guarded the wagons and asked them what they were transporting. Afterwards, the Romanian soldiers intervened, who explained that the local law was broken and confiscated the weaponry, ammunition and equipment that took their way towards the Triple Entente. In several cases, there have been escalations to actions of physical violence against the soldiers in the armies