

## TWO INTRIGUING MOMENTS IN IULIU MANIU'S BIOGRAPHY (1919, 1987)

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**Abstract.** *From the letters exchanged between Hortensia and Octavian Goga in the period from the autumn of 1918 until the autumn of 1919, while Hortensia was a refugee in Genova/Italy and Octavian Goga was in Paris in his position as member of the Council of Romanian National Unity, we find out information about the convalescence and death of Iuliu Maniu's most beloved nephew, Matei Pop, a soldier with the Romanian Legion in Italy which comprised Romanian prisoners from the Austrian-Hungarian army (February 1919). From the memoirs of Ion Traian Ștefănescu, the leader of the Council of Student Associations in Romania (1969), minister of Youth and first-secretary of the Central Committee (CC) of the Communist Youth Union (CYU) (1969-1974), an activist of the Romanian Communist Party (PCR) in Prahova county (1975-1982), first-vicepresident of the Committee for Socialist Culture and Education (1982-1984), and first-secretary of the Sălaj County PCR Committee (1984-1987), we find out about Nicolae Ceaușescu's opinion on the restauration of furniture items belonging to Iuliu Maniu's parents' house in Bădăcin, as well as on the opportunity to open a Iuliu Maniu memorial house. The information delivered and the diplomatic suggestion that I.T. Ștefănescu made to N. Ceaușescu, then on a working visit in Sălaj county (1987), highlight the political vision of a genuine intellectual (I.T. Ștefănescu), as well as a moment of contemplation for N. Ceaușescu - then already ill and overwhelmed by political pressures from both the East and the West, as well as from inside the country – on the fate of political figures in general, including that of Iuliu Maniu, in the last days of his life.*

**Keywords:** Iuliu Maniu, Matei Pop, 1919, N. Ceaușescu, 1987

A mere incursion into the history writings dedicated to Iuliu Maniu, a central political figure of national history for over half a century (1892-1948), would make any honest and even-minded citizen with at least an average level of culture, who is endowed with common sense and mental balance, to reflect on some key questions: when and for how long is a political figure well-deserved by his nation and when and why the same nation decides to label the political figure as an enemy and traitor of his Country's interests? Who changes the principles and values which decide if one is a hero or a reactionary, in what way and why?

The only certain thing is that a political leader cannot be only good or evil, following only a straight line or a road that is full of twists and turns, led by national interests or personal interests only, dominated by pragmatic or idealistic ambitions, always decisive and direct in their statements or only reluctant and hesitant. A

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