

HILARIE MITREA (1842-1904) A ROMANIAN PHYSICIAN, TRAVELER ON SEVERAL CONTINENTS - 180 YEARS SINCE BIRTH

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Abstract. Last year was the 180th anniversary of the birth of the Romanian doctor Hilarie Mitrea. He was born in 1842, in Rășinari (Sibiu) and he served as a physician in The Royal Netherlands East Indies Army. Hilarie Mitrea studied at the Roman-Catholic School in Sibiu. In 1862, he became a student at the Medical and Surgical School, and one year later he left to Vienna to become a Doctor of Medicine. In 1864, in Würzburg, he presented his thesis in medicine and surgery, on the subject of “*De cloroformio*”. Between March-August 1865 Hilarie Mitrea worked as a surgeon on the ship “*Peter Godefroy*” and during June 1866 – April 1867 he travelled to Mexico. He embarked as a military physician in the expeditionary force that accompanied Maximilian of Habsburg, Emperor of Mexico and served as a medical officer of the Austrian expeditionary force. Between 1869-1894, Hilarie Mitrea worked in Indonesia (Dutch East Indies) as an “officer of health” in the Dutch colonial army. In parallel with his prodigious medical activity, Mitrea would start collecting various animals, ethnographic objects, ornaments, weapons, fabrics and braids from the Sumatra Islands, Java and Celebes (Sulawesi), which were later on were donated to the Museum of Zoology of Bucharest. Returning to his country after 25 years, he settled in Vienna (1894), but he spent the summers in Rășinari. He passed away in Vienna on January 31, 1904.

Keywords: Hilarie Mitrea, military physician, explorer, collector of animals and ethnography.

Rezumat. Hilarie Mitrea (1842-1904) medic român, călător pe mai multe continente - 180 de ani de la naștere. Anul trecut s-au împlinit 180 de ani de la nașterea medicului român Hilarie Mitrea. S-a născut în 1842, la Rășinari (Sibiu) și a studiat la Școala Romano-Catolică din Sibiu. În 1862, devine student la Școala de Medicină și Chirurgie, iar un an mai târziu pleacă la Viena pentru a obține doctoratul în medicină. În 1864, la Würzburg, își prezintă teza de medicină și chirurgie, pe tema „*Über Chloroform* “. În perioada martie-august 1865 Hilarie Mitrea a lucrat ca medic chirurg pe nava „Peter Godefroy”, iar între iunie 1866 – aprilie 1867 a călătorit în Mexic. S-a imbarcat ca medic militar în forța expediționară care l-a însoțit pe Maximilian de Habsburg, împăratul Mexicului și a servit ca ofițer medical al forței expediționare austriece. Între 1869-1894 Hilarie Mitrea lucrează în Indonezia (Indiile de Est Olandeze) ca „ofițer de sănătate” în armata colonială olandeză. În paralel cu activitatea medicală prodigioasă, Mitrea va începe să colecteze diverse animale, obiecte etnografice, ornamente, arme, țesături și împletituri din Insulele Sumatra, Java și Celebes (Sulawesi), ulterior donate Muzeului de Zoologie din București. Întors în țara sa după 25 de ani, s-a stabilit la Viena (1894), dar verile le-a petrecut la Rășinari. S-a stins din viață la Viena, la 31 ianuarie 1904.

Cuvinte cheie: Hilarie Mitrea, medic militar, explorator, colecționar de animale și etnografie.

INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 180th anniversary of the birth of Hilarie Mitrea, physician of Romanian origin, born in 1842 in Rășinari, Sibiu. He served as a physician in the Dutch colonial army for 25 years. The life and activity of Bucur (Hilarie) Mitrea (1842-1904) has been the subject of numerous research papers which covered a large part of his biography. The first information appeared in the press of the time and referred to his participation as a military doctor, to the campaign in Mexico, between 1866-1867 (PETRA-PETRESCU, 1882). During 1882-1883, some Romanian newspapers reported that doctor Hilarie Mitrea (employed in the Dutch army in Indonesia), came on leave and brought with him a zoological collection that he donated to the Museum of Zoology in Bucharest. A complete list with the donated objects was published by The Transilvania Magazine. In his journal “*Daily notes*” (“*Însemnări zilnice*”), Titu Maiorescu remarks the meeting with Mitrea on June 18th, 1882, and praises the intelligence, his storytelling talent and linguistic knowledge. The main biographers, researchers of the life and work of Hilarie Mitrea, who brought news and clarified uncertain data with new documents from various archives were Valeriu Bologa (1892-1971), academician Emil Pop (1897-1974), physician Alexandru Culcer (1897-1979), Alexandru Marinescu (1936-2019), Iorgu Petrescu, Nicolae Balint and Dumitru Stavarache. Other authors of studies and articles have taken information from early biographers: PĂCALĂ (1915), TEBEICA (1962), SUCIU (1969), HILT (1972), BĂCESCU (1980), POPOVICI et al. (1974), OBREJA (1975), BORDA (1985), MORARU & MUREȘAN (1972), MURARIU (2006), BORDAȘ (2010), MĂRGINEAN (2013), CRIȘAN (2007), BUCUR (2009), ANDREI (2011 a,b), NEGUȚ (2011), PINNA (2011), BRAD (2015), *Dicționar enciclopedic* (2001), etc.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to clarify some aspects regarding the life and activity of this physician, naturalist, ethnographer and explorer on several continents, we have carried out numerous researches on the publications of the time, by accessing several digital libraries that store such very old documents, but also the media of our days, which publishes articles about this temerarious physician on a regular basis

We have researched the Archive of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, “Hilarie Mitrea” fund, formed by the documents donated by the academician Emil Pop, who, in his turn, received them from

Mitrea's granddaughter, Helen Kampf Mitrea. Another part of the research was carried out in the "Emil Pop" fund on documents related to Mitrea, deposited at the Library of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch. We have also researched the documents from the County Archive of Mures, from the "Alexandru Culcer" personal fund, which were kindly made available to us in the form of digital copies by Mr. Nicolae Balint, to whom we are profoundly grateful. Our research was completed by a series of photos and documents from the archive of Mitrea's great-grandson Reinhard Kampf and documents from the personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu, given to us by Dr. Iorgu Petrescu.

In this paper we have tried to compile a comprehensive bibliography with all the scientific papers and articles from the written press published up to this date. Our study is an homage brought to Hilarie Mitrea on the 180th anniversary of his birth.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bucur Mitrea was born on the 6/18th of May 1842, in the Rășinari commune (Sibiu County), the son of shepherds, Bucur and Stanca (born Blezu) originary from Land of the Moti ("Țara Moșilor"). His immense chance was that he had a father, who, although only a humble shepherd, sensed the intellectual possibilities of his son. With great material sacrifices he sent him to the Roman-Catholic school in Sibiu, where his Orthodox first name was latinized into Hilarius (DROC, 1981).

In 1862, he becomes a student at the Medical and Surgical School in Cluj, and one year later he leaves to Vienna to obtain a doctorate of medicine. Afterwards, in 1864, he will obtain the diploma of civil surgeon in Cluj. Due to his achievements, in the academic year 1863-1864 he was allowed to attend, at the same time, the courses of the universities of Würzburg and Berlin, where he obtained the degree of doctor in medicine and surgery at the University of Würzburg. On August 6th 1864, he presented his doctoral thesis on the subject of "*Über Chloroform*", in which he was advocating the use of narcosis in surgery, a premiere for those times. In the same year, immediately after finishing his studies, he will return for a brief period in Transylvania, although he would have been able to stay at university as an assistant in the capital of the empire. On August 18, 1864, Ilarie Mitrea competes for the recently established post of local doctor in Rășinari. To his disappointment, the competition is won by doctor Nicolae Stoia. His opponent's experience weighed more heavily, with four years of practice and with a doctorate obtained in Vienna. He leaves to Vienna immediately after he finds out that he lost the competition (BOLOGA, 1927; BRĂTESCU & MARINESCU, 1981).

Between March and August 1865 Hilarie Mitrea will travel to Germany, France and Australia serving as a surgeon on the ship "*Peter Godefroy*" which sailed Hamburg-Brisbane. For this reason, he may be considered the first Romanian to have traveled in Australia. His career will start on the ship "*Peter Godefroy*". The ship sailed on 9th April 1865 from Hamburg with 238 German immigrants on board.

On 7th August 1865 the vessel arrived in Brisbane with 180 passengers on board, while unfortunately the others fell ill and died of measles during the travel. Several issues of the Australian newspaper "The Brisbane Courier" from August-September 1865 report on the arrival of the ship, but also on the investigation opened by the Australian authorities. Investigators exonerated the ship's doctor, Hilarius Mitrea, saying that he carried out his mission in "the most satisfactory way possible". The Australian authorities issued a certificate, containing other laudatory appreciations regarding his conduct as a physician during the voyage (POP, 1971).

Two researchers from the Grigore Antipa Museum, Alexandru Marinescu and Iorgu Petrescu, sign an extensive study on the life of Ilarie Mitrea, in which they clarify some episodes that are less known or known in an erroneous way. The Australian travel of the Transylvanian born physician is mentioned in a police document from the ship with which the doctor had arrived to the antipodes (MARINESCU 1968, 1969, 1978, 1985, 1995, 1999, 2007, 2009; MARINESCU & PETRESCU 2012, 2016).

Dated August 14th, 1865, the act tells us that the ship "*Peter Godefroy*" left Hamburg and had German passengers on board. The first to mention the document is Emil Pop, in 1971: "*In the documents I now hold, I found a police confirmation from the ship "Peter Godefroy" in which it was stated that the ship that was traveling to Australia had German passengers on board. This document is edited on 14.08.1865 in the Port of Brisbane and brings reference to the ship surgeon Ilarie Mitrea during the voyage from Hamburg to Brisbane. I personally do not know any Romanian who travelled to Australia before Mitrea*" (POP 1966 a, b, 1968, 1971). The mentioned act also expresses the special appreciation towards the selfless behaviour of the ship's surgeon, Dr. Mitrea, during the trip to Australia. "Several issues of the Australian newspaper "*The Brisbane Courier*", from August-September 1865 report on the arrival of the ship, but also about the investigation opened by the Australian authorities", argues the study "Some new data regarding the life and activity of doctor Hilarius Mitrea", signed by researchers MARINESCU & PETRESCU (2012). From the quoted newspaper we learn that the investigators also excuse the ship's doctor, Hilarius Mitrea, stating that he fulfilled his mission in "*the most satisfactory possible way*". Without knowing the verdict, it is certain that Mitrea resigned from the position of ship's doctor shortly after arriving in Australia.

A few months later, he embarked as a military doctor in the expeditionary force which was accompanying Maximilian, Emperor Franz Josef's brother, to Mexico. As a medical officer of the Austrian expeditionary force sent to support Maximilian of Habsburg, Emperor of Mexico, he travels to Mexico (1866, June – 1867, April) together with doctor Ioan Arsenie (1838-1883) (POP, 1971; POP & STURZA, 1994).

His biographers do not say much about the time he had spent in Mexico. Emil Pop writes: “*We regret that we do not have any accurate information from this exciting and full of romance adventure in Mexico*”. Another biographer, doctor Culcer, recounts some details from Mitrea's stay in Mexico, including the episode in which he meets Juarez's troops. One evening while he was walking to San Diego, a small town located 60 km away from the capital, Mitrea is stopped by Juarez's men. He is blindfolded and taken to a cave dimly lit by a torch, where 20 men of the republican troops lay badly wounded. Mitrea saves their lives after sixteen hours of restless work while operating and treating their wounds. For this episode, in which the biographers come to the conclusion that Mitrea won the sympathy of Juarez's troops and that he would have continued to collaborate with them, there is no written document, probably this event romanticized in time was found out by Culcer, the first biographer of Mitrea, from the testimonies of contemporaries, from Mitrea's family and friends (CULCER, 1961, 1964; CULCER & SCHNAPP, 1965).

Recent research in the War Archive in Vienna about the group of volunteer officers who fought in the Habsburg Army in Mexico to support Emperor Maximilian brought new information about Hilarie Mitrea in addition to those known from his biography (place of birth, date and year, confession, civil status, existence of children), data on military career, level of education, spoken (known) languages, professional level (medical, military and other fields), health general characterization, personality, behaviour towards superiors, towards comrades, or towards enemies (HIRSCH & POPOVICI, 2021).

These officer characterization sheets contained synthetic but very important data. On March 26th, 1866, Mitrea enrolled in Vienna, with the rank of First Lieutenant Senior Physician. Mitrea participates in the battle of Cozautlan (Cosautlán de Carvajal) on September 23, 1866, and also in the battle in Banderilla on October 24 and in the defence of the city of Zalapa (Xalapa) from November 4-11, 1866. No medals were awarded to him. Commemorative medals of the Expedition to Mexico were later on awarded to him by Emperor Napoleon III of France (PETRESCU, 2010). His file mentions that he completed secondary and university studies. He spoke Romanian, German, Hungarian, Latin and a little Spanish. Regarding the military skills, the senior officer notes that these are little, a natural situation for a civilian doctor. He is in good health and Mitrea is characterized as quiet, calm and docile. He is calm in relations with his superiors. He is very friendly with his comrades, and quite respectful with his enemies. He is very diligent and with good results, considered a really helpful military doctor (HIRSCH & POPOVICI, 2021).

In April 1867, the Albina newspaper, published in Vienna, announced the return of Mitrea and doctor Ion Arsenie. Also, this newspaper publishes several articles with the suggestive title “*The cities of Mexico and their inhabitants*” (Albina 1867, no. 73, 75, 76) and “*The primitive inhabitants or Indians of Mexico*” (Albina no. 78 and 93). The articles are not signed, and the newspaper editor states that they were written “by a Romanian, formerly in the Austro-Mexican Army”. From their content it follows that the author was a doctor with obvious ethnographic and naturalistic preoccupations, and the dates also match. Mitrea was demobilized on April 9, 1867 in Vienna, where he stayed until the winter of 1867-1868, when he left for Transylvania (HEIN, 1899). One of his biographers, SUCIU (1969) attributes these articles to Mitrea, who was in Vienna at that time, but EMIL POP (1971) is more circumspect and considers that these articles were actually written by Ion Arsenie and not by Mitrea. Between 1869 and 1894 Ilarie Mitrea settled in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) as a “health officer” in the Dutch colonial army. He took part in the main campaigns of this army, between 1869-1872 he was in Sumatra at Palembang and Padang, between 1872-1876 at Bandjermassin, Barabai and Moeara Teweh Kalimantan. In 1870, he embarked again, as a military doctor, under the Dutch flag, to Batavia (today Djakarta), the capital of the Dutch Indies (Indonesia). Here he will meet the Hungarian doctor and amateur geologist Possevitz and the famous Russian explorer Mikluho-Maklai, with whom he will make several trips. Based on the documents that survived in the archives from the Bucharest (“Grigore Antipa” Museum), Cluj and Târgu Mureș National Archives, his biographers were able to reconstruct his route as a military doctor in various islands in Indonesia, following the military unit that he belonged to. As a military doctor he worked in various places: at Anier, at Moeara-Teweh, in the island of Borneo, in the islands of Sumatra and Celebes, therefore he was closely familiar with the difficult situation of the natives subjected to both racial persecution and economic exploitation. Close to the native population, he often came into conflict with the authorities to which he belonged (MARINESCU, 1978). He claimed that “*the health of the soldier depended to a large extent on the health and nutrition of the civilian population*”, or that “*before the prophylaxis of the military, the prophylaxis of the civilian population is required*”. In 1887, he succeeded to obtain an order from the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies according to which Dutch soldiers or civilians were forbidden to shoot the natives, which they had until then mostly for their entertainment. In 1879, a bloody campaign, in which Ilarie Mitrea also participated for 14 months, suppressed any trace of rebellion (BALINT 2007a, b, c, d). Everything he sees in this war disappoints him. “*We were shooting at them with firearms, and they were shooting at us with arrows. Such a war is not pretty at all.*”, the doctor from Rășinari will declare later on. In 1873 he married a local Malay woman, Wattam Kadam, with whom he had two children, Petru (b. 1875, Moeara Teweh; †1965, Ankara) and Maria (b. 1877, Anjer, Java; †1953, Sibiu). The only written testimony about his Indonesian wife is the following document: “*Semarang, April 25, 1895 Dear Mr. Mitrea, In February I received the letter with the money (20 rupees) from you. I and my children Petrus and Maria thank you. I recently ordered a photo of me in Semarang which I am sending to you by Dutch government transport. I have already planted 10 coconut trees, 8 pete, also corn and rice in the paddy field; the “sawo” tree (Sapodilla n. n.) already has a lot of fruit. I have done this before with two or three trees with these large fruits. Now I have to pay for the cultivation of the garden, together with*

two other lands in the forest, for which I have to give 4 rupees per year. I have bought a cow (water buffalo), now 10 months, and she already has a calf. Many compliments, Wattam”.

Parallel to a prodigious medical activity, as early as 1870, Mitrea will start collecting various animals from the islands of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Celebes (Sulawesi). During these travels he studied the ethnography of the regions where he had arrived and, at the same time, he collects household and religious objects, ornaments, weapons, fabrics and braids (ANTIPA, 1934). Mitrea collected the zoological and ethnographic pieces during the time allowed by the military actions of the army of which he was a part, otherwise for the doctors in the Dutch Army, the collection of biological and ethnographic material was a service obligation (BALINT, 2008a,b; 2009a,b). Each doctor was obliged to collect plants and animals which they then donated to the Natural Science museums in the Netherlands. So did Mitrea; he collects this material, but decides to donate it to his country, precious material with which he enriched not only the museums of Vienna (where it was partially identified), but also the Museum of Zoology from Bucharest. *“For a long time we will still be a small country with limited material means to know the world around us. Otherwise, our development as a nation will be delayed as long as we do not strive to know our place in the world as well as possible, to know how much we value and to measure our powers, to know precisely what we can contribute to the development of the entire culture of mankind... That's why I have spent so much time and so much money collecting works from the islands of the Dutch East Indies, in order to donate them to a Romanian museum and to add a brick in the building of our national science”.* His donations were publicized in the press of the time in several journals in the country: Albina (1867), Concordia (1865), Dreptatea (1894), Familia (1882), Observatoriul (1881), RomânuLu, (1882), Transilvania (1882), Tribuna (1894), Telegraful Român (1904). Mitrea collected a large number of ethnographic pieces and animals (including rare species of birds and mammals, such as the snub-nosed monkey) which in 1882 he gave to the National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest, where a hall carries his name. In 1895, upon his retirement, he made a second donation, consisting of a collection of animals and ethnographic pieces from the islands of the Indonesian Archipelago (POP & STURZA, 1994). He was rewarded by the Dutch with two medals for his medical qualities and by King Carol I with two “Crown of Romania” medals in gratitude for his great donor gesture (MARINESCU & ANDREI, 1980; MARINESCU & ROJANCOVSKI, 1971, 1972; PETRESCU, 2001, 2005; PETRESCU et al., 2008; PETRESCU & TEEUWEN, 2009). The zoological collection included over 1000 animal specimens (insects, molluscs, crustaceans, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (PETRESCU & PETRESCU, 2009, 2014, 2019). Due to the lack of space, the pieces remained mostly closed in the crates in which they had been shipped, being brought to light only in 1894, when the collections were entrusted to Grigore Antipa *“... I must first mention the unforgettable Dr. Mitrea, a Romanian originally from Râșinari and a doctor in the Dutch colonial army in the East Indies, who sent a rich collection of skins and preparations in alcohol of all classes of vertebrates and crustaceans from the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes and Moluccas...”*. This collection, of which only 715 pieces are preserved today, is the richest and most valuable donation received by the “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History in Bucharest during its more than 175 years of existence (MARINESCU, 1995, 1999). Numerous papers have been written about the tumultuous life and prodigious activity of Hilarius Mitrea, a doctor in the Dutch Colonial Army in Indonesia for about 25 years. More than 11 works were dedicated to various aspects regarding the donations made to the Museum of Natural History in Bucharest in 1882 and 1895 (PETRESCU, 2005). Several pieces donated by Mitrea can still be found at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, where they were originally identified and in the Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art from Târgu Mureș (Mureș County Museum. Ethnography and Folk Art Department), Romania. It is the largest and most valuable collection that has ever been received by the Museum of Natural History in Bucharest (almost 1500 pieces). Over time the numerous disasters that affected the buildings in which the museum was housed (earthquakes, bombings during the war, fires and human negligence) did not bypass this splendid donation either. More problems are with identifying the original archival documents that accompanied these donations. At this moment, they were able to inventory approximately 530 pieces in the collections of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum. At the beginning of 1881, he took a two-year leave and went to Europe. The material brought in several crates is unloaded in Vienna to be accurately identified and studied by the naturalists of the Imperial Natural History Museum. Afterwards, the exhibits are sent to Romania, to the National Museum in Bucharest. The end of 1882 finds him again in Vienna, invited to participate in the operations that the famous surgeon and professor Theodor Billroth was performing in his clinic. The state of his father's health, who dies in February 1883, determined him to ask for an extension of his leave, after which he returns to Indonesia for another ten years (MITREA, 1882; MARINESCU & IONESCU-KONNERTH, 1985). During all this time he was promoted to the rank of major and leading military doctor. In August 1893, he left Indonesia for good and settled in Vienna. Returning to his homeland after 25 years, he settled in Vienna (1894), where he stayed all the time at the “Red Rooster” Boarding House (Zum roten Hahn), but spent the summers in Râșinari, where he offered free consultations to the locals. Unfortunately, his travel notes (if they ever existed) had been lost. After the definitive return to Europe, he could not forget his native places. Here he had spent the summers with his daughter, Maria. He became friends with the Goga, Lungu and Ilcuș families. In Sibiu, he often visits Gheorghe Dima, with whom he has an old friendship (STAVARACHE, 2008, 2009, 2010). All those who remember Mitrea from this time describe him as a man who, although he no longer practiced officially, he treated the peasants from the surroundings of Sibiu for free. He kept strict rules of hygiene and care and had imposed those since he was still living in tropical areas. He boiled water before drinking it, refused incompletely roasted meat, avoided raw milk and even butter, he used to disinfect often, he also did not smoke, did not consume alcoholic beverages, except in exceptional cases, with his

guests. He installed a steam bath in his house in Rășinari (ANDREI, 1980 a,b). In the last two years of his life, he gave up his vacations in Transylvania and isolated himself in Vienna. He died in Vienna on 31 January 1904 and was buried on 2 February. His death certificate was published in the study of the researchers from Antipa (MARINESCU & PETRESCU, 2012, 2016), dispelling the previous speculation, that Hilarie Mitrea would have committed suicide with chloroform and that he would have been buried in a mass grave in the Central Cemetery in Vienna]: “It is confirmed that in 1904, on January 31, he died, and on February 2, he was buried according to the Greek-Oriental rite by Priest Dr. Mel. Apostolopoulos. Place of death – Alserstrasse, in Vienna; Name, religion, year of birth of the deceased: Dr. Hilarius Mitrea, born in Rășinari, Transylvania in 1842, by profession doctor - army officer, celibate, by religion Greek-Oriental (orthodox n. n.); Cause of death: heart attack; Place of burial: Vienna Central Cemetery” (MARINESCU & PETRESCU, 2012, 2016). His son Petru Ilarie Mitrea graduated from the Polytechnic of Zurich and became a construction engineer and electronics engineer. He settled in Bern, Switzerland. He participated in the construction of the Anatolia-Turkey railway and the construction of the Simplon Tunnel in the Alps. He married a French woman, Fidelia, with whom he had two daughters. He died in Ankara in 1934, where he is buried. His sister, Maria Mitrea, although she studied at the Vienna Conservatory, settled in Rășinari where she married Nicolae Isdrăilă. The couple had four children. She died in Sibiu, in 1953. The descendants of the military doctor Hilarie Mitrea, the Romanian from Rășinari, traveler on several continents of the world, live today scattered, some in Switzerland, England and France, and others in Sibiu, members of a large European family with ancestors in Romania and the former Dutch East Indies (STAVARACHE, 2011, 2015; STAVARACHE & SULUGIUC, 2015).

CONCLUSIONS

Over time, the memory of this fearless and patriotic Romanian doctor had been commemorated in more than 80 articles in the press, works and scientific studies dedicated to his life, temporary exhibitions with donated ethnography or zoology preparations. In 1980, at the “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History, a temporary exhibition was organized (March-October 1980) entitled “Hilarie Mitrea/1842-1904/, Romanian doctor, traveller and explorer/ A great donor to the Museum”. On this occasion a brochure with the same title was published, in which the personality of Hilarie Mitrea and the catalogue of the exhibited pieces are presented. Also then, the “Grigore Antipa” Museum received as a donation several documents that belonged to Hilarie Mitrea from his granddaughter, Helen Mitrea Kampf. Also, on this occasion, one of the museum's rooms was named after the Romanian explorer. Another manifestation honouring the memory of Hilarie Mitrea was organized by the “Franz Binder” Museum of Universal Ethnography within the ASTRA National Museum complex in Sibiu, in 2009, on the occasion of the 105th anniversary of Mitrea's death. The project entitled “*Romanian personalities affirmed on the world level in the 19th century: Hilarie (Bucur) Mitrea from Rășinari Sibiuului- Physician, “Naturalist and Ethnographer”*” under the coordination of Mrs. Maria Bozan (BOZAN, 2009 a,b; BOZAN, 2010; FILIMON, 2009). On this occasion, a booklet with the same title and the summaries of the 11 presentations from the round table organized was published. The event was accompanied by the opening of the temporary exhibition “Hilarie (Bucur) Mitrea (1842-1904) from Rășinari Sibiuului- Physician,, Naturalist and Ethnographer”, which presented the ethnographic exhibits donated by Mitrea. Later, between September 23 and October 23, 2009 this temporary exhibition was also opened at the “King Ferdinand I” National Military Museum. Lately, the Romanian doctor's memory is also being commemorated on digital channels; several websites contain information about the life and work of Hilarie Mitrea (www.antipa.ro/; <http://art-zone.ro/personalitati/>; <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/>; <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/16>; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>; turistprinromania.com/; www.sibiul.ro/; www.bjc.ro/). Unfortunately, a monographic work about Hilarie Mitrea could not be published even today.

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