

# LUDOVIC MRAZEC, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE SRG AND OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS IN ROMANIA

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**Abstract.** Famous personality of Romanian geology, the founder and first director of the Geological Institute, Ludovic Mrazec was not only a corresponding and honorary member of several academies, institutes and scientific societies, but also the founder of scientific and cultural societies. This paper presents the activities carried on by Mrazec for the establishment and advancement of the Romanian Society of Geology, from preparatives in 1929, founding in 1930, scientific activities from 1930 through 1938, as well as main meetings, field trips and publications of this society.

*Keywords:* Ludovic Mrazec, Romanian Society of Geology (RSG), history of geology.

**Résumé.** Personnage célèbre de la géologie roumaine, fondateur et premier directeur de l'Institut de géologie, Ludovic Mrazec était non seulement un membre correspondant et honoraire de plusieurs académies, instituts et sociétés scientifiques, mais également le fondateur de sociétés scientifiques et culturelles. Ce document présente les activités menées par Mrazec pour la création et le développement de la Société roumaine de géologie, depuis les préparatifs de 1929 à la fondation en 1930, les activités scientifiques de 1930 à 1938, ainsi que les principales réunions, excursions géologique et publications de cette société.

*Mots-clés:* Ludovic Mrazec, Société Roumaine de Géologie (SGR), histoire de la géologie.

## INTRODUCTION



Fig. 1. Ludovic Mrazec, portrait appeared in *Lucafarul* magazine n° 12 of June 1905. "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca.

Ludovic Mrazec (Fig. 1) was a corresponding and honorary member of several academies, institutes and scientific societies: The Academy of Sciences in Paris, the Polish Academy of Letters and Sciences in Krakow, the Academy of Letters and Sciences in Bohemia, the Society of Naturalists in Moscow, the Geological Society of Belgium, the Geological Society of France, the Egyptian Institute, Doctor honoris causa of the Strasbourg University (Ilie, 1958). He was also among the founders of several Romanian societies, Romanian Association for Advancement and Spreading of Science – ARPIS, Society of Tourists from Romania – STR and the Romanian Society of Geology – SRG (Ilie, 1958; Ciupagea, 1991).

This paper presents the process of establishment of the Romanian Society of Geology in 1930, the preparatory steps for its establishment, as well as the activities related to the scientific meetings organized during the existence of this society. The paper is based on documents rescued, kept and scanned by the latter author, who was general secretary of the Geological Society of Romania from 1990 to 1998.

## PREPARATIONS FOR FOUNDING THE SRG

Preparations for establishing a Romanian geological society started in 1929, when L. Mrazec sent a letter to 35 members of the Initiative Committee (Fig. 2). The letter showed that the year 1930, when the French Geological Society celebrated 100 years of activity, was a good year to set up a geological society in Romania, the youngest of the Latin countries in Europe. Mrazec asked for a reply to his letter and until the fall of 1929, replies arrived from both individuals and companies, such as Vasile Buțureanu, Emil Sanielevici, Simion Mehedinți, I. Popescu-Voitești, but also the Mining Credit (Creditul Minier), The Anonimous Society in Reșița, etc.

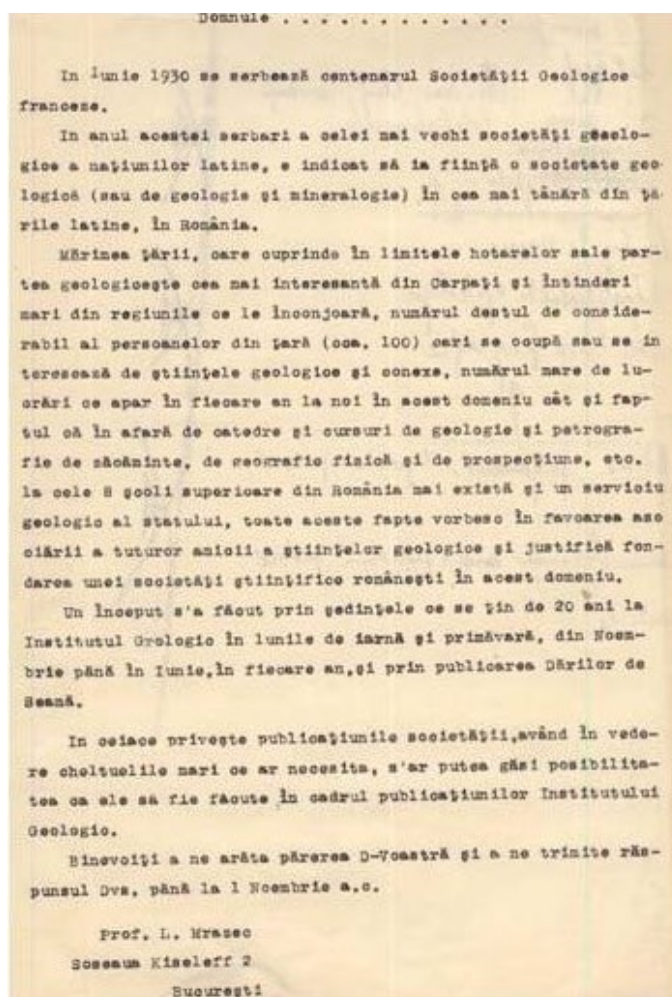


Fig. 2. The letter sent by Ludovic Mrazec to members of the Initiative Committee in 1929.

The draft statute was ready by February 1930, and the name of Romanian Society of Geology was chosen out of several proposals (Fig. 3). Further, L. Mrazec sent letters to a list of about 60 geologists from the country, working in various institutions and companies, asking for observations to the draft statute. The list included societies such as Steaua Română (Moreni, Prahova), the Lemoine drilling company (Ploiești), Lupeni Society, the Electric Company, the Mining Credit in Bucharest, Astra Română Society in Câmpina, Colombia, Astra Română, Romanian Star societies, universities of Bucharest, etc.

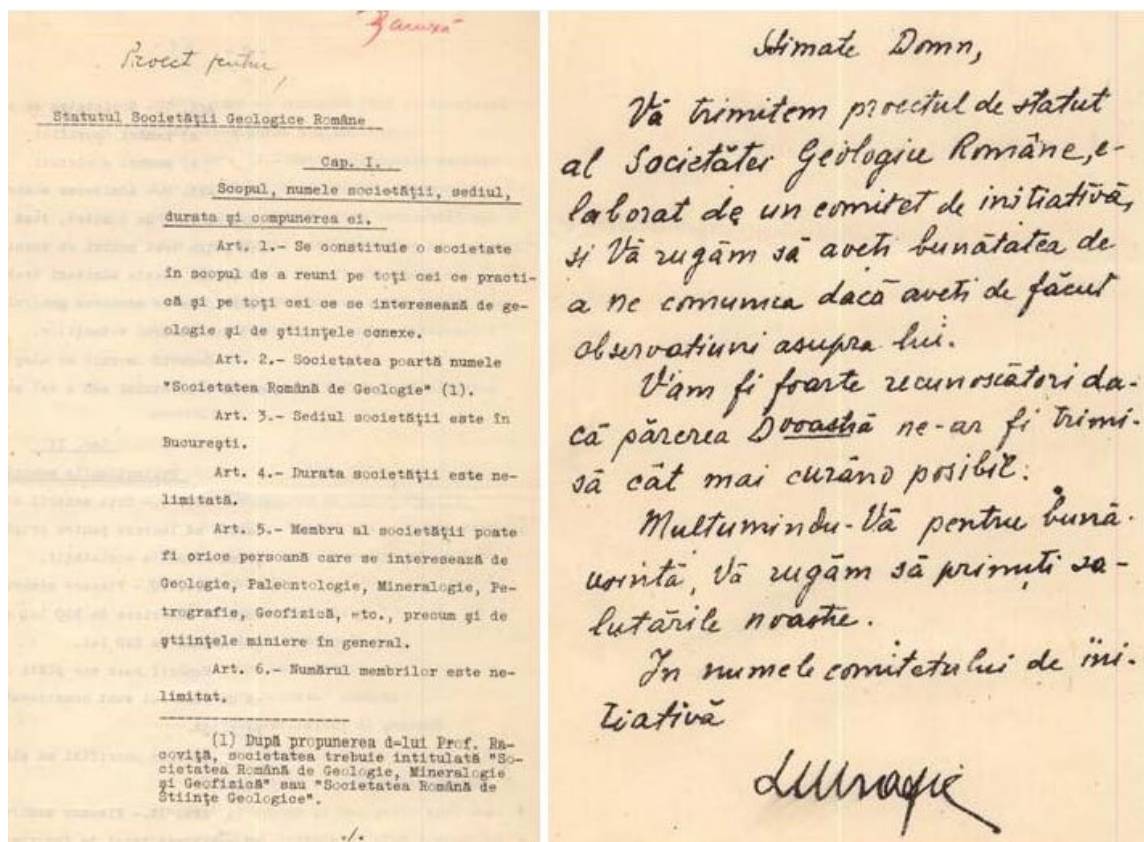


Fig. 3. The draft of the SRG statute and accompanying letter of 3.02.1929, sent by L. Mrazec to members of the geological community for feedback.

## THE FOUNDING OF THE SRG

After receiving the comments, L. Mrazec sent a letter to members of the initiative committee, inviting them to participate to the founding meeting and election of the SRG leadership. The date of the constituent meeting of SRG was established for Sunday the 2nd of March, at 10 o'clock, in the laboratory of geology of the University. The agenda of this meeting was typed (Fig. 4), the voting rule accepted stipulating that the first 15 persons with the highest number of votes will be included in the steering committee of the society. As revealed by the minutes of the constituent meeting (Fig. 5), as well as by the letters sent to other members of the geological community, the result of the vote was: president L. Mrazec, vicepresidents Sava Athanasiu and E. Racoviță, general secretary Ion Atanasiu, cashier D. Preda and 10 members: Ștefan Cantuniari, Ion Dinu, I. Ficșinescu, Horia Grozescu, Gheorghe Macovei, C. Osiceanu, Ion Simionescu, D. Ștefănescu, Ion Popescu Voitești, and Ilie Bujoi. According to the number of obtained votes, censors were G. Murgeanu and E. Jekelius. Based on the minutes of the votes counting, L. Mrazec and I. Atanasiu were elected with an equal number of votes, i.e. 30 votes each (Fig. 5). According to the newspaper cuts, press releases related to the formation of the SRG were taken over in the issues on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1930 of *Universul* and *Curentul* newspapers.

Another preserved document was the handwritten letter of Mrazec addressed to the dean, requiring that the SRG headquarters for the monthly meetings should be the amphitheatre of the geology laboratory, as well as a smaller space for the weekly meetings of the committee.



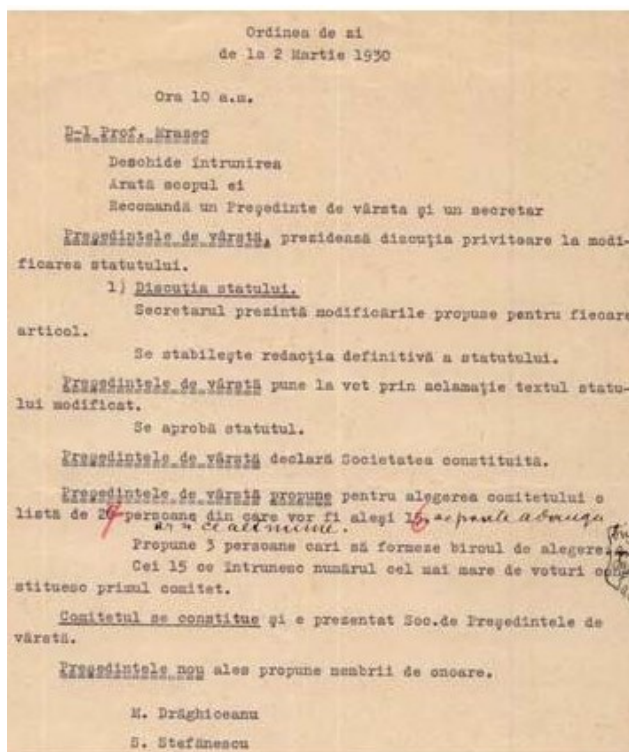


Fig. 4. Agenda of the founding meeting of SRG on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1930.

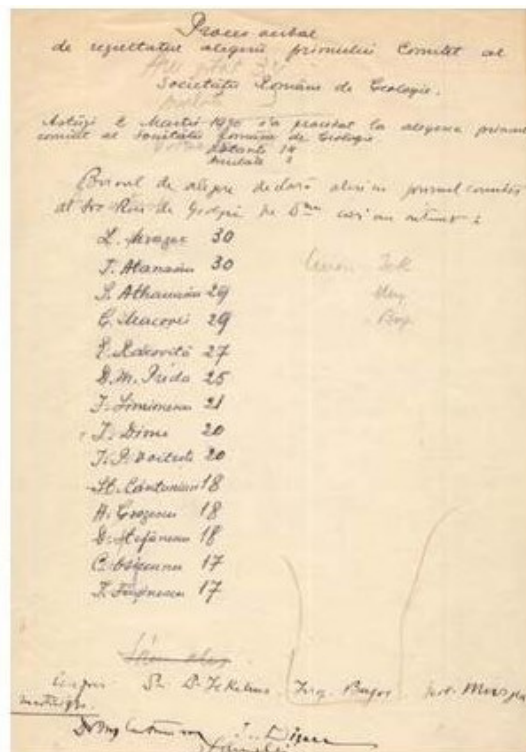


Fig. 5. The vote counting minutes at the founding meeting of SRG.

Reactions following the establishment of the SRG followed. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, the Geological Society of France sent a letter of congratulations for the constitution of SRG. The Ioan Cantacuzino Society of cement, Brăila factory, announced the payment of the enrollment fee and of the annual membership fee. The Lupeni anonymous society for coal exploitation sent a letter of gratitude for receiving 10 copies of the statute and membership forms and asking for extra 5 copies.

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Geological Society of France, the Steering Committee of the SRG has sent a greeting signed by the committee members (Fig. 6).

At the inaugural meeting of the SRG, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, Ludovic Mrazec showed that the establishment of the society is a “consequence of the scientific trend created by the Geological Institute of Romania” and appeared from the “necessity to unite under the same roof the geologists and miners in order to cultivate one of the most noble sciences”.

The constitutive act of the SRG appeared as a notarial act only in 1936, when the president of the society was Gheorghe Macovei. This act contains the handwritten signatures of the members of the society (Fig. 7).

The statute of the SRG was published in the Bulletin of the Society. It is a document of only 7 pages, format A5, very concise and precise.

During April and May 1930, applications for joining the SRG followed. Each application included recommendations of two SRG members, an entry number and was advised by the leadership. From the applications found, it results that Theodor Kräutner from the Geological Institute, G. Murgeanu, Albert Streckeisen (Polytechnic School), Alexandru Codarcea, Dan Giușcă and Erick Jekelius were proposed by D. Preda and I. Atanasiu. Ion Băncilă was proposed by Sava Athanasiu and D. Preda, Mircea Paucă by D. Ștefănescu and Ion Băncilă, while Virgil Ianovici was proposed by D. Ștefănescu and Mircea Savul.



Fig. 6. Post card sent by the SRG to the Geological Society of France on its centennial anniversary, with signatures of all members of the steering committee.





Fig. 7. Constitutive act and statute of the SRG, with stamps and notary signatures of April 1936.

## THE SRG MEETINGS

During its existence between 1930 and 1938, SRG has organized annual meetings in various localities all over the country, each of them accompanied by field trips.

The first annual meeting took place between 28 and 30 September 1930 in Petroșani, at the Workers' Casino, a building in Neo-Romanian style which is used today as a theater. Based on the list of participants, about 30 persons attended the meeting. According to the meeting agenda (Fig. 8), after the opening speech given by Ludovic Mrazec, Ion Popescu-Voitești presented the geology of the Petroșani basin. The first day's presentations were followed by two days of field trip. In the first day, guided by L. Mrazec, the mylonites from the Jiu Valley were visited. The closing meeting took place the same evening. The second day of the field trip was a presentation of the Jiu Valley section and in the same evening the participants left for Bucharest.

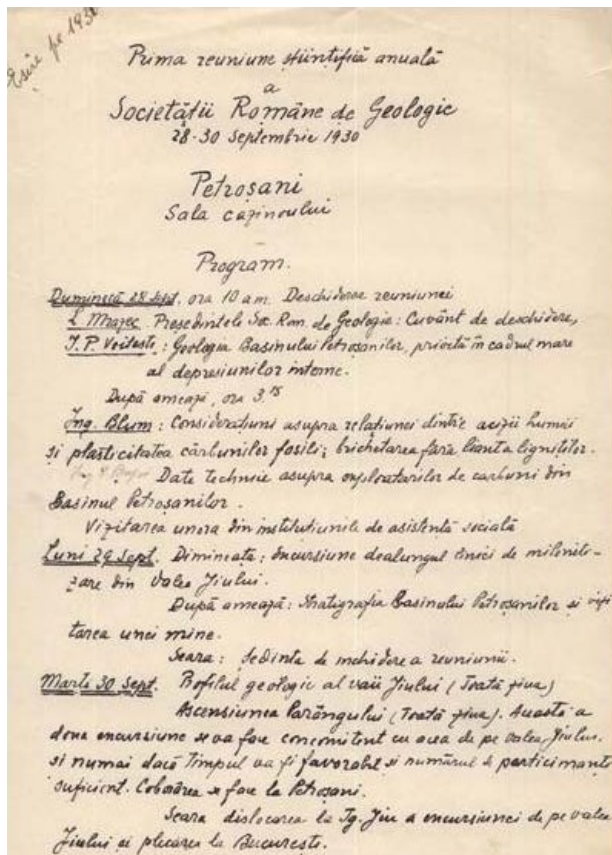


Fig. 8. The program of the first scientific meeting of the SRG of 28–30 September 1930 in Petroșani.

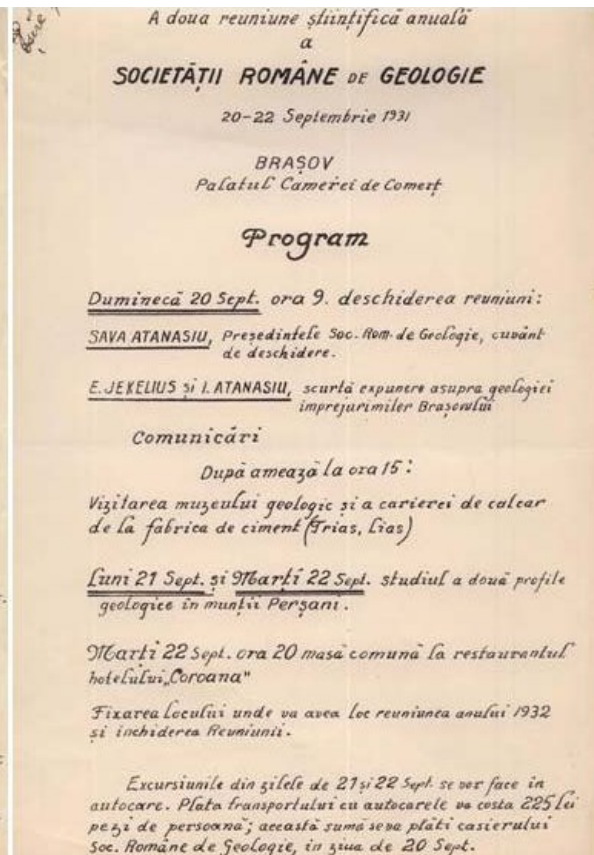


Fig. 9. The program of the second scientific meeting of the SRG in Brașov.

The second meeting took place between 20 and 22 September 1931, in Brașov, at the Palace of the Chamber of Commerce. According to the agenda (Fig. 9), the meeting was opened by the ARG president, Sava Atanasiu. A presentation of the geology of the area, delivered by E. Jekelius and Ion Atanasiu, was followed by scientific sessions. In the same afternoon, the geological museum and the quarry of the cement factory (dug in Triassic and Liassic deposits) were visited. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, two sections in the Perșani Mountains were visited by coach. The meeting closure and the dinner took place at the Crown restaurant in Brașov.

Each year, the SRG presidents used to send a letter to all the members, asking them to confirm their participation, to pay the fee and giving details of the conference schedule (Fig. 10).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, during 1–4 October 1932, took place as a trip on the route Aiud – Abrud – Brad – Turda. According to the program (Fig. 11), participants met at Hotel Saidl in Aiud, and left for the Trascău Mountains, to visit the Cretaceous flysch, the klippen of Tithonian limestones in Cheile Aiudului, Pleașa Râmețului, Bedeleu syncline, the metamorphic rocks in the Trascău and Ponorului Mountains and the Detunata basalts from the Metaliferi Mountains.

At the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, the opening speech of president Ion Simionescu was followed by presentations about the gold of Romania (V. Stanciu), the calcographic study of the Roșia Montană ore (N. Petruțian), the distribution of mineralized zones in gold veins (T.P. Ghițulescu), and the geology of the Metaliferi Mountains (M. Ilie). The presentations were followed by a visit to the gold ore processing plants at Gura Barza and the mines in Brad. The third day was dedicated to visit the state mines in Săcărâmb. The morning of the fourth day was dedicated to the contact between the



metamorphic rocks of the Gilăului Mountains and the Upper Cretaceous flysch from the Arieș basin (Belcina), the metamorphic rocks in Trascău, Vidolm, Lunca, the Jidovina dacite, the magmatic rocks from Trascău Mountains (Buru-Moldovenești), and the tectonics of the Trascău-Bedelevu Mountains. After lunch in Turda and the closing session, an optional trip was proposed on the road back to Aiud, related to the geology of the Trascău basin.

Societatea Română de Geologie București 19 Aug. 1931  
 Laboratorul de geologie  
 (Universitate)  
 Str. Edgar Quinet nr. 10. Bul.  
 Brătianu, București I

No 18

Dămnule

Reuniunea științifică anuală a Societății Române de Geologie are loc anul acesta la Brașov în zilele de 20-22 Sept., după programul aici alăturat.

Ca să putem pregăti cartiriunea și mijloacele de transport necesare encursiunilor, vă rugăm ca, cel mai târziu până la 15 Septembrie, să ne comunicați

- 1) Dacă luați parte la reuniune,
- 2) Dacă veniți singur sau însoțit de alte persoane,
- 3) La care encursiuni roți să luați parte.

Președinte

Secretar General  
 Ion Atanasiu

Sava Athanasij

St. J. Atanasiu

Fig. 10. Letter with the program of the annual scientific meeting sent to SRG members by president Sava Athanasij on the 19 August 1931.

A TREIA REUNIUNE A SOCIETĂȚII ROMÂNE DE GEOLOGIE		1/ Convocații:		Cercetătorii superiori din Institutul nostru al Argeșului (Belcina),	
BRAD 1, 2, 3 și 4 Octombrie 1932.		a) Dl. Prof. V. Ștefan: Anul din România		găturile cristaline din regiunea Trascău, Vidolm, Lunca (Schița geologică No. 1), dealul de Jidovina, eruptivul Trascăului (Buru-Moldovenești), Coșminul Munților Trascău-Bedelevu.	
Excursiunea în Munții Apuseni.		b) Dl. N. Petrușcu: Anul din România, geografia și minele rurilor.			
<b>P R O G R A M</b>		c) Dl. Ing. T. P. Ștefan: Distribuția selenelor în mineralogiate în filonul aurifer.		Ora 13 : Dejunul la Turda.	
Zina I. Sâmbătă 1 Octombrie 1932.		d) Dl. Klysova Ilie: Privire geologică asupra Munților Metaliferi.		Ora 14 : Sesiunea de închidere a Reuniunii.	
Ora 7 a.m.	Întâlnirea participanților la Hotel Sădău Aiud.	Ora 11,30 - 12,30	Vizitarea instalațiilor de prelucrare a minerurilor surferice de la Brad (Căminul).	a) Discuții asupra celor observate pe teren în timpul reuniunii.	
Ora 7,30	Masa de dimineață la Hotel Sădău.	Ora 13	Dejunul.	b) Fixarea viitoare reuniuni.	
Ora 8 a.m.	Plecarea cu autobuzul pe șoseaua județeană Aiud-Abud - Brăd.	Ora 14,30	Vizitarea minei de la Brad.	c) Ordinul de închidere al Președintelui.	
Birăstarea Munților Trascăului, examinarea anei Flyschului cretacic, cenzii Klippelor de calcare titanice din Cheile Alodului, Pășcuțului, Sincelului Bedeleului, gaturile cristaline din Munții Trascăului și Munții Ponorului. Într-o Ponor și Abud amezite și basaltale (Detonate) din Munții Metaliferi strădatând Cretaceul inferior (Schița geologică No. 1).		Ora 20,30	Masa de seară la Brad.	Ora 16	
Ora 19,30	Seara la Brad (Masa de seară și surpriză).			Făcarea pe șoseaua Turda-Buru-Aiud. Geologia dealului Trascău (excursiune benevolă).	
Zina II-a. Duminică 2 Octombrie 1932.		Zina III-a. Luni 3 Octombrie 1932		PREȘEDINTE,	
Ora 8 a.m.	Dechiderea reuniunii.	Ora 7,30	Masa de dimineață.	7. Atanasiu	
1/ Ordinul de închidere al Președintelui.		Ora 8 a.m.	Plecarea din Brad la Sădău, pe șoseaua Brad - Deva - Sădău.	Secretar General,	
		Ora 10 <sup>00</sup>	Vizitarea minei Metaliferi din Sădău.	2. A. Codarcea	
		Ora 10	Dechiderea la Brad.		
		Zina IV-a. Marți 4 Octombrie 1932.			
		Ora 7,30	Masa de dimineață.		
		Ora 8 <sup>00</sup>	Plecarea din Brad pe șos. județeană Brad-Abud-Cheșuț - Turda - Aiud.		
		Trădarea contactului dintre gaturile cristaline din Munții Gilăului și depozitele Flyschului cretacic. Tăcătoși			

Fig. 11. The program of the 3<sup>rd</sup> scientific meeting of the SRG in the Metaliferi Mountains.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting of SRG was organized in Turnu Severin during 6–9 October 1933. The assembly took place at the Cultural Palace, today a theater. As results from the letters sent to the Prefect, the organizer of the conference and field trip was Alexandru Codarcea. After the



morning presentations, in the afternoon of the first day the first trip was scheduled, on the route Turnu Severin – Vârciorova. In this trip several stops were planned to examine the Mesozoic in the quarries at Gura Văii, the metamorphic rocks of group I (the Getic Nappe) at the railroad canton 249, the Sinaia beds between the Slătinic and Oreva valleys, the sole of the Getic Nappe in Ursoanea quarry and the section at Vârciorova. The second day a longer route was scheduled along the Danube, from Turnu Severin to Berzasca. After an overview between Ieşelniţa and Ogradena, participants examined the Ogradina granite (on Ogaşul Costineşti), the Mesozoic deposits at Cazanele Mici (on Ogaşul lui Grigore and Ogaşul Vâlcanului), the chromites at Dubova, the Liass at Lozoviţa, the ophiolites at Plavişevişa (Valea Satului), Ogaşul Mic (Tisoviţa, km 94 and 91), gabbros in Iuţi quarry, the contact between the gabbro and Verrucano (Sviniţa km 88–50), the Liass and Dogger at Sviniţa (at Ciucianca, km 86–85), the Barremian at Sviniţa (Ogaşul Ţiganski), the Klaus beds with ammonites (at Greben), and the Permian quartz porphyries (at Izlaz). The dinner took place in Berzasca, with accomodation in Barzasca, Drencova and Cozla. On the third day, on route Berzasca – Moldova Nouă, after an overview of the Mesozoic at Gura Ielişovii, the stops included the Tithonian and Neocomian from Stilbiţa (Munteana), the fossil-rich Liass and the overthrust of Liass onto the Neocomian (at Gura Sirinieii), the metamorphic rocks and Culm facies at Cozla, the Urgonian-Aptian at Stenka Liubcovei (Veliki Brag), the green rocks of Miniş zone (mouth of Sichevîţa valley), the contact between the granites and phyllites of the Miniş zone (Gornia, at Stenka, km 47–46), the Malm and the Lower Cretaceous between Albeg and Coronini, with dinner and accomodation in Moldova Nouă. The program also included a potential visit to the UDR cellars (Reşiţa Domain Plants). The fourth day was dedicated to the Danube Valley between Moldova Veche and Turnu Severin, a boat trip which included a visit to Adakaleh. The closing session of the meeting took place in Turnu Severin. It is worth mentioning that for this trip, Al. Codarcea revisited the Iron Gates section, while the observations from his field book on Vârciorova quarry have modified this already known section (Fig. 12).

*Universul* newspaper of 8 October 1933 dedicated an article to the SRG Conference in Turnu Severin.

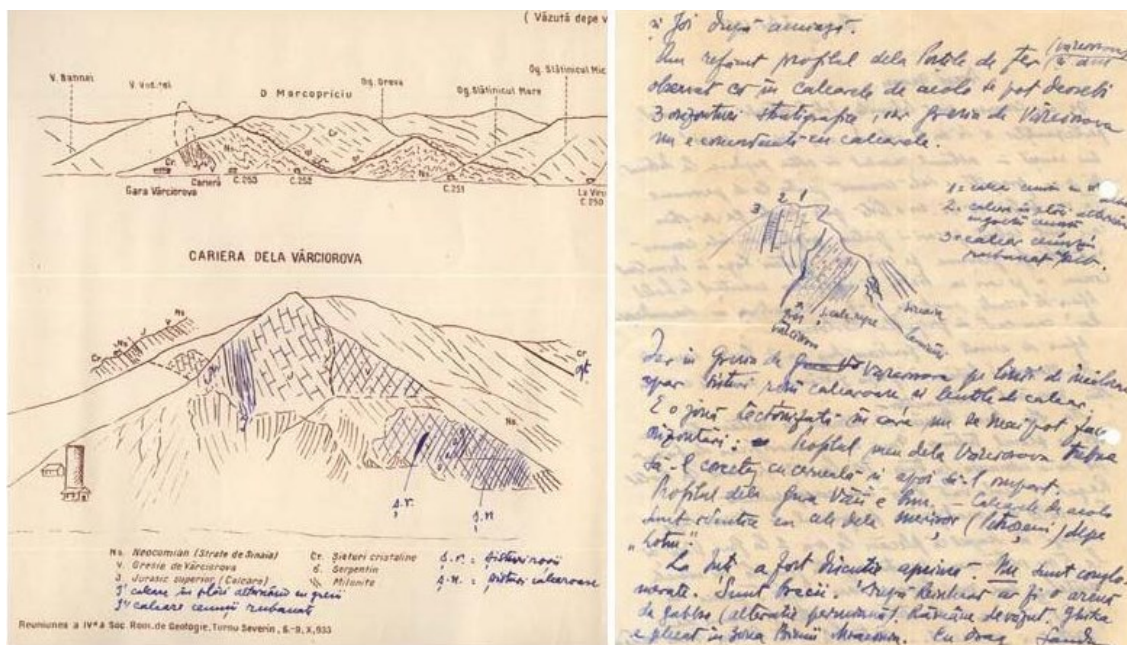


Fig. 12. The page in the field book of Alexandru Codarcea with his modifications of the Vârciorova section.

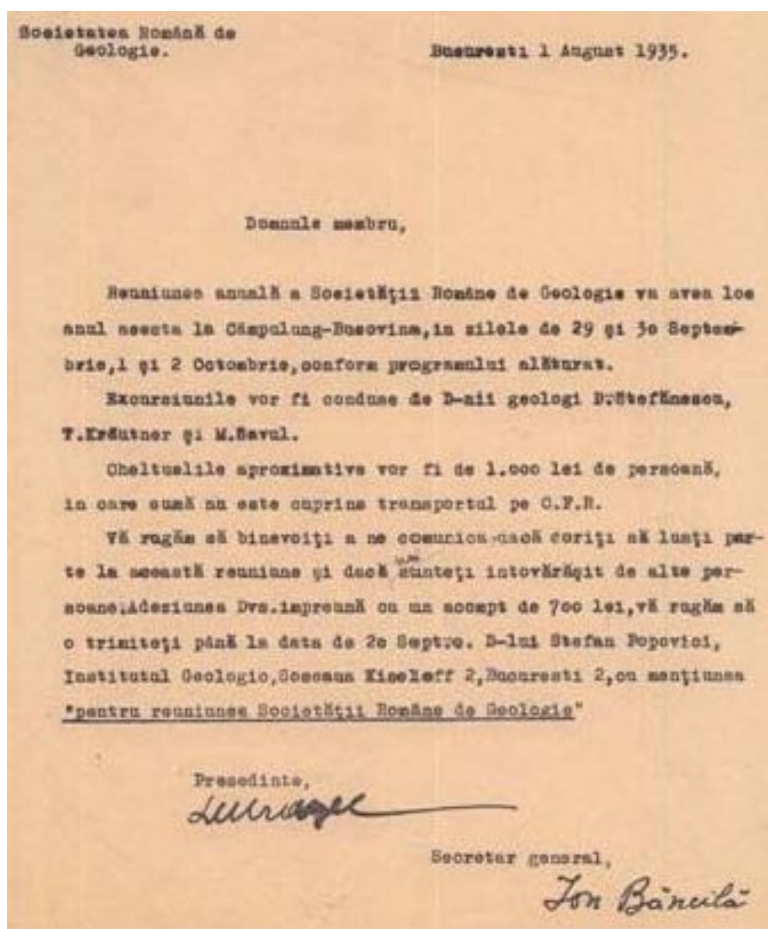


Fig. 13. Letter addressed to the SRG members inviting them to participate to the 6<sup>th</sup> scientific meeting in Câmpulung Moldovenesc, signed by Ludovic Mrazec, president, and Ion Băncilă, general secretary.

The 5<sup>th</sup> scientific meeting of the SRG was organized in Târgu Ocna, during 3–6 October 1934, under the presidency of Ion Popescu-Voitești. The list of participants contains 65 names, but some of them are barred. According to the letter sent to the members, the field trips leaders were geologists D.M. Preda and Ion Băncilă. The first day of the field trip took place in the surroundings of Târgu Ocna. The second day the section of the Slătinecului valley from Târgu Ocna to the Slănic baths was examined. The third day the field trip followed the Troțușului and Doftanei valleys, from Târgu Ocna to Comănești, while the fourth day was dedicated to the section of the Troțușului valley from Comănești to Păltiniș. Several newspaper cuts about each day of this field trip have been preserved, published in *Dimineața* and *Universul* newspapers.

It is highly probable that on the Uzunu valley section, heated debates took place between supporters of the nappe structure of the area and those opposing it. The geological map of Tg. Ocna – Slănic-Doftana area of D.M. Preda was elaborated based on field data, observations being done together with Gh. Macovei, a supporter of the anti-nappe concept. For this reason, Macovei refused to be co-author of the map, and D.M. Preda published as a single author the map and geological section where he figured the tectonic position of the Tarcău sandstone.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting of SRG took place in Bucovina, at Câmpulung, during 29 September – 2 October 1935. The letter sent to SRG members, signed by Ludovic Mrazec, president,

and Ion Băncilă, secretary general, specifies that field trip leaders will be Dumitru Ștefănescu, Theodor Krätner and Mircea Savul (Fig. 13). The opening of the conference took place in Câmpulung, followed the next day by a trip along the Moldova valley section, between Păltinoasa and Câmpulung, guided by Dumitru Ștefănescu. The third day targeted the Mesozoic sink of Bucovina, visiting the metamorphic rocks and climbing the Rarău peak, through Izvorul Alb, with accomodation at Rarău lodge. The fourth day participants travelled to Dorna, crossing the metamorphic rocks and the remnants of its Mesozoic cover, visiting also the Iacobeni mine. The geological map of D. Ștefănescu and a geological section show the lithological succession and structure of the deposits on the Moldova valley, as well as several images from the field trip, in which we can recognize I.P. Voitești, I. Băncilă, Th. Krätner and D. (Mache) Ștefănescu (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14. Images with the participants in the field trip of the 6<sup>th</sup> scientific meeting of the SRG at Câmpulung Moldovenesc (Bucovina).

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SRG was organized in Brăila, from 27 September to 2 October 1936. The opening of the meeting and the scientific session took place at the Administrative Palace in Brăila. The next day, embarked on coaches, participants crossed the Danube from Brăila to Smârdan (Ghecet) and visited the Iacobdeal granites, the Devonian from Bujoare, the Priopcea Hill section and the Greci granitoids. The same afternoon they left for Tulcea on the road along the Danube, visiting the Orliga metamorphic rocks, the Triassic basalts from Luncavița and Niculițel and the rhyolites from Isaccea. On the third day, participants visited the Triassic-Jurassic formations on route Tulcea Veche – Somova – Telița – Ciclic – Frecăței – Cataloi – Tulcea. The fourth day started with a visit to the Monument Hill in Tulcea, to examine the contact between the Werfenian conglomerates and the Paleozoic basement intruded by a trachyte dyke. In the afternoon, participants embarked on a ship with destination Vâlcov on the Chilia branch, to visit the Danube Delta. The fifth day started with a visit of Vâlcov and surroundings, then the party returned to Galați.

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of SRG was organized during 23–26 September 1936 in Bihor county, under the presidency of David M. Preda and Ion Băncilă as general secretary. Two field trips with the railcar were planned, one in the Pădurea Craiului Mountains (at Remeți and Bratca), led by dr. Th. Krätner, the other in Codru Moma, led by Mircea Paucă. Th. Krätner guided the participants along the route Valea Iadului – Remeți, in order to see the Lower Triassic – Upper Cretaceous succession and visit the bauxite deposits. The second day the field trip continued the section of Valea Iadului, with accomodation in Oradea Mare. The next day, guided by M. Paucă, participants went to Beiuș, with a stop in Borz railway station, to visit the Triassic section of the Crișul Negru river. The festive meeting took place at the Samuil Vulcan high school in Beiuș, in the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. The scientific presentations were focused on two main subjects, the geology of the Pădurea Craiului Mountains and that of Codru Moma Mountains, presented by the two field trip leaders. After a night



spent in Beiuș, the last day was dedicated to the Triassic-Jurassic-Lower Cretacic section on Valea Mare a Finișului. The field trip ended in the same evening at Oradea Mare.

The 9<sup>th</sup> and last annual scientific meeting of SRG took place during 2–15 September 1938 in Italy, on the route Parma – Modena – Bologna – Florence – Rome – Naples – Pescara – Venice. The meeting was organized under the presidency of David M. Preda and included 27 participants. The field trip started in Parma, where both geological and cultural objectives were visited: a geological section of Ceno valley, Salsomaggiore Terme and the oil exploitation at Salsominore in Emilia Romagna province. After visits to Modena (a geological section in Secchia Valley near Bozano), Bologna, crossing the Apennines toward Florence, Rome (visit to the Geological Institute), Napoli (visit to Vesuvius, Pompeii, Campi Flegrei), the trip crossed the Apennines again heading to Foggia, Pescara and Venice.

### SRG PUBLICATIONS

SRG edited the *Bulletin of the Romanian Geological Society* (Buletinul Societății Române de Geologie), published by Cartea Românească publishing house. During the activity of SRG, five volumes of the Bulletin were published, each edited in two foreign languages, French and German. Remarkable works for the development of the geological knowledge of the Romanian territory were published in these volumes. The back cover of each volume contained the names of Committee members for 3 successive mandates (seats), along with the members of the editorial committee and information on the conditions of admission as a SRG member.

In volume I of 1932, Gheorghe Macovei published his work on the origin of oil from the Romanian Carpathians and its mother rocks, Ion Simionescu published his paper on the Pliocene vertebrates from Berești, and Ion Popescu-Voitești published the paper on the geology of the Petroșani basin. Volume II of 1933 contains other remarkable works: Dumitru Ciupagea on the structure of the Transilvanian Basin, Dan Giușcă on the magmatic differentiation in North Dobrogea, Theodor Krätner on the geology of Rodna Mountains and M. Paucă on the fossil fishes from the Pliocene of Oltenia and from Transylvania. From Buletin III in 1937, we selected several papers: Ștefan Cantuniari on the eruptive massif from Sacar Bair in Tulcea zone, Dan Giușcă on the chemistry of nagyagite, Mircea Ilie on tectonics of the Metaliferi Mountains, Gheorghe Macovei and David M. Preda on the geological structure of the Trotuș basin and Dumitru Ștefănescu on the Carpathian flysch from Bucovina between Păltinoasa and Câmpulung Moldovenesc. Volume IV of the SRG Bulletin, appeared in 1939, includes the papers: Ion Z. Barbu on fossil insects from the Tertiary of Oltenia, Theodor Krätner on geology of the eastern part of the Pădurea Craiului Mountains and Mircea Paucă on geological problems of the Codru Moma Mountains. Volume V, published in 1942, includes the works of Ștefan Ghika-Budești on the metamorphic and magmatic rocks from the South Carpathians, Mircea Paucă on the palmipede impressions in the Helvetian of the East Carpathians and David M. Preda on the problem of oil in Sicily.

### LUDOVIC MRAZEC AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Ludovic Mrazec was interested in other Romanian societies, being among the founding members of some of them. Thus, he was one of the founding members of the Romanian Association for Advancement and Spreading of Sciences – ARIRS, established in 1902 in Iași by Constantin Istrati. At the first ARIRS Congress during 2–5 June 1902, Ludovic Mrazec said that “the goal of national

scientific congresses, among communications of pure science and strengthening links between scientists of the same nation, is to discuss the interests of their country” (Botez, 2005).

Since its establishment and until the First World War, ARIRS held 8 congresses (Iași, 1902; Bucharest, 1903; Constanța, 1904; Craiova, 1905; Bucharest, 1906; Focșani, 1909; Târgoviște, 1911; Galați, 1912) (Botez, 2005). The last pre-war congress of ARIRS took place in 1912, and in time the association has changed its name, becoming the Romanian Association for Advancement of Sciences – ARIS. The 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of ARIS took place in Bucharest between 29 April and 2 May 1934, under the presidency of Ludovic Mrazec, general secretary being mathematician Octav Onicescu. The congress was inaugurated with royal participation. On this occasion, the bust of Gheorghe Munteanu Murgoci was unveiled in the yard of the Geological Institute of Romania (today the National Museum of Geology) and a flower sheaf was deposited at the statue of Constantin I. Istrati in Carol Park. Participation to this congress was impressive: 33 scientific societies, about 500 participants, 300 presentations grouped in 6 sections (mathematics, physics-chemistry, natural sciences, history of sciences, technics, education). At this congress, which was the swan song of the association, Ludovic Mrazec talked about two of his wishes: 1). The necessity to create an institute to support laboratories, making a call to economic enterprises to support research; 2). The necessity to establish a “National Council of Research”, a state advisory and consultative body (Botez, 2005).

At the ARIS congress in 1934, 29 communications of the SRG members were presented at the session of Geology, Mineralogy and Mining Sciences. Ion Atanasiu, the first general secretary of SRG, presented new research domains, not known in Romania prior to 1916: sedimentary petrography, microscopic study of coal, application of geophysical methods to the underground study, calcographic study of ores and spectral analysis (Atanasiu, 1934). From the papers presented, we selected a few: Ion Banyai – The problem of methane gas in the Cretaceous deposits; Alexandru Codarcea – *Ophiolites from the South Banat and their chromite deposits*; Miltiade Gh. Filipescu – *Micrographic study of siliceous rocks from the Cretaceous on the Dnestr*; Gheorghe Macovei and David M. Preda – *Contributions to the tectonics of the Flysch Marginal Zone*; Mircea Paucă – *Some new fossil fish in the Tertiary of Romania*; Albert Streckeisen – *Contributions to the study of magmatic differentiation in the syenite massif of Ditrău*; Ion Atanasiu – *Geology at the eighth Congress of the Romanian Association for Advancement of Science*. These papers were published in *V. Adamachi Scientific Journal*, vol. XX, n° 4 (Atanasiu, 1934).

Ludovic Mrazec also participated to the establishment of the Society of Tourists from Romania – S.T.R., founded on 24 January 1903 in Bucharest, in order to “know the beauty of the Romanian country and thus to strengthen the love for homeland and nation”. The initiators of the society were Ludovic Mrazec and Alexandru Tzigara-Samurçaș, while the headquarters of the society were in the village Cătina, the estate of Coralia Boldur-Costachi, owned by the latter. Members of the steering committee of this society were famous personalities such as Grigore Antipa, Simion Mehedinți, Gheorghe Munteanu-Murgoci and Alexandru Vlașuță. During its 13 years of activity, S.T.R. organized hikes in the South Carpathians (Bucegi, Făgăraș, Piatra Craiului, Mehedinți, Gorj and Retezat Mountains). The Society has built two cottages, one in Piatra Craiului, inaugurated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1908, and a second, Podeanu Cottage at the foot of poalele Negoiu, inaugurated on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1908. The Society also published the S.T.R. Year-Book (Anuarul S.T.R.).

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Ludovic Mrazec was a pioneer, a pathfinder, a man who enjoyed to build. Even if the SRG existed only for 14 ani, it was very active during its rather short existence, organizing meetings and publishing a scientific journal. After the Second World War, during communism, the Geological

Society was active from time to time, but its existence was not continuous. In 1990, when the Geological Society of Romania – SGR was established, at the initiative of Academicians Dan Rădulescu and Mircea Săndulescu, the statute of this new society stipulated that the SGR continues the activity of the SRG, as a recognition of the excellent managing and organizing skills of Ludovic Mrazec.

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