

# ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

## PHOTOGRAPHY IN ROMANIA (1840–2008). A CHRONOLOGY

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Until now nobody dared to write a comprehensive history of the Romanian photography. Most of the neighboring countries have, at least, a major work in this field.<sup>1</sup> Some have already English versions of those works. That does not mean that there was no interest for such an extensive work in our country. Those who had the disposition for such an effort had no means to complete it as long as most of the documentation was offered by the National Archives and the old periodicals, part of them written in Cyrillic letters.

Nevertheless, the first historian of Romanian photography was himself a photographer, **Etienne Lonyai** (1885–1957), co-founder and president of Uniunea Fotografilor din România (The Romanian Photographer's Union) (1924) and editor of the magazines "Fotograful" (The Photographer) – published in three languages: Romanian, German and Hungarian – in four issues from August 1924 till February 1925, and "Revista Fotografică Română" (The Romanian Photographic Magazine) (1934–1938). In one of the first issues of "Revista Fotografică Română" he published a paper called *Când a fost introdusă arta fotografică în România? Cari au fost primii meșteri?* (When Was the Photographic Art Introduced in Romania? Who Were the First Masters?).<sup>2</sup>

A few years later he wrote another paper, called *Primii amatori fotografi români* (The First Romanian Amateur Photographers)<sup>3</sup> where he dealt with Constantin Sturza-Șcheianu's calotypes. Lonyai continued his historic endeavors

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<sup>1</sup> Petar Boev, *Fotografskoto izkustvo v Balgaria (1856–1944)*, Sofia, 1983; D. Popsavova, *Fotografskite snimki kato istoritsheski izvor*, Sofia, 1984; Branibor Debeljković, *Stara srpska fotografija*, Beograd, 1977; Radmila Antić i Miodrag Djordjević, *Anastas Jovanović*, Beograd, 1977; Radmila Antić, *Anastas Jovanović, talbotipije i fotografije*, Beograd, 1986; Nikola Plavšić, *Negotin sa starih fotografija*, Negotin, 1988; Milanka Todić, *Fotografija u Srbiji u XIX veku*, Beograd, 1989; Miodrag Djordjević i grupa autora, *Fotografija kod Srba 1839–1989*, Beograd, 1991; Milanka Todić, *Istorija srpske fotografije (1839–1940)*, Beograd, 1993; Goran Malić, *Milan Jovanović, fotograf*, Beograd, 1997; Milanka Todić, *Fotografija i slika*, Beograd, 2001; John Demos, *Ellada 1896–1906. Images from Stereoscopic Photographs*, Athens, s.a.; Alkis X. Xantakis, *Istoria tis ellikis photographias 1839–1960*, Athina, 1981; Idem, *History of Greek Photography 1839–1960*, Athens, 1988; Bahattin Öztuncay, *Dersaadet'in Fotoğrafçuları. 19. yüzyıl İstanbulunda fotoğraf: Öncüler, stüdyolar, sanatçılar*, Istanbul, 2003; Engin Özendes, *Sébah & Joaillier'den Foto Sébah'a Fotografa Orientalizm*, Istanbul, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Et. Lonyai, *Când a fost introdusă arta fotografică în România? Cari au fost primii meșteri?*, in "Revista fotografică română," March 1935, no. 4, pp. 74–78.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, *Primii amatori fotografi români*, ibidem, August 1938, no. 44, p. 661.

with a chronology published serially under the title of *Evoluția istorică a fotografiei* (Photography's Historical Evolution).<sup>4</sup>

An outstanding historian, **George Potra** (1907–1991) found time to devote his research to the beginning of the Romanian photography. His study was mostly based on his own collection of old pictures. He firstly published his paper *Vechii fotografi din București* (Old Photographers in Bucharest) in 1941, in the magazine "Fotografia" (The Photography).<sup>5</sup> Afterwards he enlarged his paper and published it in 1970 in the new series of the same magazine<sup>6</sup> and, as a special chapter, in two of his books, *Din Bucureștii de altădată* (From Bucharest of Yore)<sup>7</sup> and *Din Bucureștii de ieri* (From Yesterday Bucharest).<sup>8</sup>

But the most important work on Romanian photography was authored also by an art photographer, **Constantin Săvulescu** (1914–2001). A civil engineer by occupation and a distinguished amateur landscapist, Săvulescu did, after retirement, extensive research at the Library of the Romanian Academy and the National Archives. His major work, *Cronologia ilustrată a fotografiei din România. Perioada 1834–1916* (The Illustrated Chronology of Photography in Romania, 1834–1916)<sup>9</sup>, was published in 1985. Săvulescu's research ended with the year when Romania entered World War I. In his last years he continued his research covering the between-the-wars period but, unfortunately, he wasn't able to complete his work.

As long as there is such need for an extensive work on this field I decided to complete, for the moment, just a chronology of the major events in the history of Romanian photography from the beginning till now.

## CHRONOLOGY

**1839, February 16** Forty days after the announcement of Daguerre's invention made at the French Academy of Science, news of this important event reached Jassy and was published in the Moldavian capital newspaper "Albina Românească," no. 14. Other pieces of information were given in the following issues (23 February 1839,

<sup>4</sup> Idem, *Evoluția istorică a fotografiei*, ibidem, March 1937, no. 27, pp. 446-447; April – May 1937, nos. 28-29, p. 468; June – July 1937, nos. 30-31, p. 488; August – September 1937, nos. 32-33, p. 500; October – November 1937, nos. 34-35, p. 532; December 1937, no. 36, pp. 554-555; April – May 1938, nos. 40-41, p. 631; June – July 1938, nos. 42-43, pp. 653-654; August 1938, no. 44, pp. 676-677; November – December 1938, nos. 47-48, p. 718.

<sup>5</sup> George Potra, *Vechii fotografi din București*, in "Fotografia," 1941, nos. 4-6.

<sup>6</sup> Idem, *Aspecte ale istoricului fotografiei în România*, ibidem, 1970, no. 10, pp. 573-608.

<sup>7</sup> Idem, *Din Bucureștii de altădată*, București, 1981, pp. 425-439.

<sup>8</sup> Idem, *Din Bucureștii de ieri*, vol. II, București, 1990, pp. 252-269.

<sup>9</sup> Constantin Săvulescu, *Cronologia ilustrată a fotografiei din România, perioada 1834–1916*, București, 1985.

- no. 16 and 25 June 1839, no. 50). A detailed rendering of how to process the plates and to take pictures is published in three issues of the same periodical (“Albina Românească,” 31 August 1839, no. 69; 3 September 1839, no. 70; 7 September 1839, no. 71).
- July 8** In “Cantor de Avis și Comers” (no. 93), the Wallachian newspaper in Bucharest, is published the first piece of news about the great invention.
- 1840** In both Jassy and Bucharest there are brought daguerrean cameras along with the whole equipment for taking pictures. At first this device was thought to be a means of learning physics and mathematics and, being bought by each country’s Education Departments, was given to the local colleges. In Bucharest, at the Library of the Romanian Academy, there still exists Daguerre’s brochure *Historique et description des procédés de Daguerreotypie et du Diorama*, stamped with the St. Sava College seal. For Bucharest there is still a matter of conjecture who used for the first time that camera. In Jassy, the natural science professor **Teodor Stamati** was the first one to use that camera and took some views of the town. Stamati’s pictures were publicly exhibited in the hall of the local Academy.
- 1841** “Le Glaneur Moldo-Valaque,” a newspaper published in Jassy, Moldavia, offers new details about the daguerreotype.
- 1842** The first portraits were taken in Jassy in a studio belonging to the state and placed at National Industrial Products Depot. Those interested in having their likeness taken were invited to visit that studio between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and were assured of the accuracy and resemblance of the pictures.
- Lutz Lorincz** takes the first daguerreotype cityscapes in Cluj.
- Giacomo Marastoni** (1804–1860), daguerreotypist from Budapest, comes to Cluj for the General Assembly.
- Gotfried Bart**, itinerant daguerreotypist, comes to Brașov and takes portraits of those willing to have their likenesses taken.
- 1843** The first daguerreotypist to take portraits in Bucharest is a lady, **Wilhelmine Pritz**. She opens a studio on the French Street.
- 1844** Spending a few months in Jassy, **Pierre Soloniewski** opens a studio.
- I.K. Medinski**, itinerant daguerreotypist, opens a studio in Jassy. He advertises that he takes colored daguerreotypes.
- 1845** **Ipolit Hobonevski**, itinerant daguerreotypist, opens a studio in Jassy. He advertises that he takes black and white and colored daguerreotypes.

- 1847** The optician **Feldherr** advertises, along with spectacles, magnifying glasses and spying glasses, cameras and magic lanterns.
- 1848** The painter **Carol Szathmari** (1812–1887), nobleman from Transylvania who settled in Bucharest, takes his first picture, a calotype showing an antique sculpture.
- 1849** **Iosef Lorenz** opens a studio in Jassy where, along with portraits, he gives daguerreotype lessons to any amateurs. He also sells cameras, silver plates and all the necessary chemicals.
- 1850** **Ioan (Johann) Heck** opens a studio in Bucharest. He will run this studio until 1852 when he moves to Jassy to join his brother Nestor.
- 1851** **Robert Heinrich** opens a photographic studio in Bucharest where he produces both daguerreotype and paper prints. Besides taking portraits he also gives photographic lessons to amateurs.
- Adolf Daici** (Deutsch) opens a studio in Bucharest. Prior to coming to the Wallachian capital he worked for a while in Belgrade in 1849. He himself uses the daguerreotype but one of his employees, Hermann Büchner from Leipzig, was acquainted with the wet collodion technique and produced paper copies too which were hand colored afterwards. Portraits of Louis Napoleon, the French president, were also sold in his studio.
- Robert Heinrich** and **Mazec**, painters and photographers from Vienna, who already visited Bucharest, arrive in Jassy and advertise their art.
- W. Prokesch** settles in Braşov after ten years of photographic practice in Cluj.
- 1852** **Friedrich Binder** opens a studio in Bucharest. He will be active until 1856. But, due to lack of clients, he diversifies his business opening an advertising office. He also sells lithographic portraits of the commanders and battle scenes from the Crimean War. As a great attraction, he exhibits a telegraph in his studio and visitors are charged a fee for seeing it.
- The painter **Mezey Lajos** opens the first studio in Oradea; for the first ten years he painted most of the time while photography was a side occupation. Since 1864 he devoted his entire time to photography.
- Constantin Sturza-Şcheianu** (1797–1877), a wealthy Moldavian boyar (nobleman), develops a great interest in photography and, as an amateur, took pictures with his friends and relatives. Seven of his calotypes are now preserved at the Library of the Romanian Academy. He was the first and only amateur photographer in the Romanian Principalities as early as 1850s.

- 1853** **Joseph Wilhelm Weiniger** from Prague, after a brief visit to Jassy in February and March, advertised his presence as daguerreotypist in Bucharest in late November and early December.
- Veress Ferenc** (1832–1916) opens a studio in Cluj which was still operating at the outbreak of World War I.
- 1854** **Michael Bisenius** (1809–1875), Austrian photographer, settles in Jassy and opens a studio. He will be active until 1872 when he sold his studio to Nestor Heck.
- Leon**, a French photographer, opens a studio at Hotel de France in Bucharest, called *La Galerie Vitree*.
- In April, **Carol Szathmari**, who already had a studio in Bucharest, filled a van with his cameras and glass plates and went on the border of the Danube to document the fighting between the Russian and Turkish armies. He took pictures at Oltenița with both parties and bound his collection in an elegant album. Thus, he was *the* first known war photographer in the world. He also took the likenesses of the commanders of the opposing armies and of the Austrian army who occupied the country one after the other. He used the wet collodion process.
- 1855** During the Paris Exposition Universelle, **Szathmari** exhibits, with great success, his album for which he was awarded the Second Class Medal. He was also received in private audience by both Emperor Napoleon III and Queen Victoria, who awarded him important medals. That sign of great esteem for one of them was proudly advertised in two issues of “La Lumière,” the French photographic magazine.
- 1856** Ernest Lacan, the well-known French photography critic and historian, devoted to **Szathmari**’s work a whole chapter in his book *Esquisses photographiques. A propos de l’Exposition Universelle et de la Guerre d’Orient*.
- Ludwig Angerer** (1827–1879), a military druggist who came to Bucharest with the Austrian armies during their occupation of the Romanian Principalities, takes a few pictures with folk types, important buildings and street scenes. Even though he soon left the country with the imperial troops and eventually became Imperial Court Photographer in Vienna, he is considered of great importance for the Romanian ethno-photography and early cityscapes of the capital city.
- 1857** **Szathmari** exhibited in Paris another album with folk types. The album was reviewed, under the title *La Photographie en Orient. Types et costumes militaires par M. de Szathmari*, by Auguste Devanux in “Le Monde Illustré” (31 October 1857, no. 29).

**Szathmari** photographs the opening of *Adunarea ad-hoc* (The General Assembly) in Bucharest. His picture was reproduced, a year later, in the magazine "L'Illustration" (15 May 1858, no. 794).

In Jassy, **Ioan Heck** takes a group portrait of the peasant representatives in the Moldavian General Assembly.

The painter **Isidor Selagianu** (1836–1887) opens a studio in Craiova. Instead of printing his name on the back of the pictures he chose to write his name directly on a piece of furniture which was used all the time in the set up of his portraits.

**1858** After eighteen years studies at the Fine Arts Academy in Munich, Germany, the painter **Gheorghe Panaiteanu-Bardasare** returns to Jassy. In the first years spent in his native country he practiced photography. He took the portrait of Alexandru Ioan I, the ruling prince of the United Principalities. Another portrait which survived is that of Heinrich Herkt, an artillery captain in the Moldavian army.

**1859** After taking a picture with the representatives from Upper Romania, **Szathmari** lithographed it on a larger size.

After the Union of the Romanian Principalities on 24 January 1859, **Ioan Heck** took the likenesses of the Ruling Prince Alexandru Ioan I and of the members of the first Moldavian government. Woodcuts were made after those portraits in order to be published in the French magazine "Le Monde Illustré" (12 March 1859, no. 100).

**Veress Ferenc** from Cluj issues two albums with pictures he took in that city.

**1860** **Szathmari** publishes the first illustrated magazine in Bucharest: "Ilustrațiunea. Jurnal Universal" (The Illustration. Universal Journal). Besides woodcuts brought directly from Paris, which were already used in "L'Illustration," he printed also his own drawings. Due to lack of good engravers he had to give up this enterprise after almost a year.

**W. Wollenteit**, photographer in Bucharest, took a portrait of the Ruling Prince Alexandru Ioan I which was later lithographed by August Strixner.

**Moritz Benedict Baer**, photographer in Bucharest, took a portrait of the Ruling Prince Alexandru Ioan I which was later lithographed by Iosef Pernet.

**Franz Duschek** (1830–1884) completes an album with views taken at Măgurele. It was entitled *Vues de Magourelî*.

**Gheorghe Panaiteanu-Bardasare**, painter in Jassy, is sent by the Moldavian Ministry of Public Education to Lemberg (now Lvov, Poland), to document the relics connected with the Moldavian history. He used photography to get correct images of those precious

objects and returned to Jassy with a large portfolio of reproductions. Afterwards he advertised in the local periodicals his *national album*. He was sent again to Lvov in 1865 with the same purpose.

Photography became a profitable career and a lot of new studios flourished in both capitals of the Principalities and in the province.

- 1861** The Ministry of Public Education in Bucharest launches a program to document the monuments of the country, following the French *Mission Heliographique* example of ten years before. Five commissioners were sent throughout Wallachia to make files for every important monument. While Alexandru Odobescu and Dimitrie Pappasoglu took an artist to draw the monuments worthy of interest, Cesar Bolliac used an unidentified photographer to take pictures of the churches he studied. At least one of those pictures with which he illustrated his reports is preserved at the National Archives.
- 1862** Two new studios are opened in Oradea, that of **Benedek Mór** and that of **Lojanek János**.
- 1863, October 16** **Carol Szathmari** is honored with the title of Ruling Prince's Court Painter and Photographer.
- Szathmari** takes the official portraits of the ruling prince and his wife. Besides copies of his pictures he also sold large lithographic plates of the same portraits which were printed in Paris, at Lemerrier.
- Carol Szathmari** offers an album to Princess Helen, wife of the Ruling Prince Alexandru Ioan I. Elegantly bound, the album had a hand written title and dedication on the front page: *Souvenir de la Roumanie, dédié à son Altesse Sérénissime Hélène, Princesse Régnante de la Roumanie, par Charles Pap de Szathmari, Peintre et Photographe de la Cour de Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince Régnant*.
- 1865** **Szathmari** publishes his review entitled *Photographie Parisienne* in the Viennese "Photographische Correspondenz" (vol. II, January – December, nos. 7-8).
- 1866** After the forced abdication of Alexandru Ioan I, **Szathmari** sends an album of photographs with folk costumes and landscapes to the newly elected ruling prince, Count Philip of Flanders. The Count declines the offer for the Romanian Principalities' throne and another prince is called to rule the country, Carol of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. Many photographers provided copies of his portrait even before his arrival.
- Franz Duschek** takes the first official portraits of Prince Carol I, both in civilian clothes and in a general's full dress and undress uniform. Some of the pictures were later lithographed by Josephine Bielz or engraved by August Weger and P. Barfus.

**Carol Szathmari** completed a large size album called *Episcopia de Curtea de Argeș* (The Episcopal Church of Curtea de Argeș) which was dedicated to the new ruling prince.

**1867** The Ruling Prince Carol I confirms to **Szathmari** the title of Court Painter and Photographer. He also gives the same title to **Franz Duschek**.

Romania exhibits for the first time its national products and curiosities at the Paris Exposition Universelle. **Szathmari**'s pictures with folk costumes, Romanian views and the large album with the Curtea de Argeș Episcopal Church are rewarded with a honorable mention. Another photographer from Romania, **Otto Bielig** of Galați, exhibited some portraits.

**Szathmari** begins another large size album called *România*.

**1868** **Szathmari** publishes a chromolithographic portfolio called *România. Albumul Înălțimei Salle Domnitorului CAROL I. Peisage frumoase și costume grațioase ce avem în țară* (Romania. His Highness the Ruling Prince Carol I's Album. Beautiful Landscapes and Nice Costumes from Our Country). He based his sketches on his own photographs with folk types.

**1869** Along with some of his water colors, **Szathmari** displayed photographs in the exhibition opened at the Academy's Palace in Bucharest when Prince Carol I showed his collections to the public.

**1870** **M.B. Baer** completed an album with a carte-de-visite series of pictures with views from Bucharest.

**1871** A new studio is opened in Oradea, **Pelikan K. és Knapp M.** After a year the partnership ended and the studio is run, for the following ten years only by **Pelikan Károly**, under whose name it was advertised.

**1873** **M.B. Baer** publishes an elegant chromolithographic album with the newly issued Romanian military uniforms. It was entitled *Albumul Armatei Române* (The Romanian Army's Album). For the commanding officers' portraits Baer used photographs which he or other photographers took of those high ranking military men.

**Szathmari** exhibits again his photographs at the Vienna Welt Ausstellung.

**1877** At the outbreak of the Oriental War, **Carol Szathmari** follows the Romanian troops on the campaign. After the war he binds his pictures in an album entitled *Suvenir din Resbelul 1877-78* (Souvenir of the War 1877-78).

**Franz Duschek** also went to the battlefields in Bulgaria but was affiliated to the Russian Army. His pictures circulated either as independent plates or bound in an album entitled *Resboiul 1877-78*



- (The War 1877–78). He worked along with **A. D. Reiser** with whom he shared a peasant house as studio and humble abode during the campaign.
- 1879** **Franz Duschek** went to Rusciuk (today Russe, Bulgaria) to take pictures at the welcoming ceremonies in honor of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, the new Bulgarian ruler after the country's liberation from the Ottoman Empire.
- 1880, May 10** **Franz Mandy** receives the title of Ruling Prince's Court Photographer.
- 1881** The coronation ceremonies of Prince Carol I as the first king of Romania, which were held in Bucharest on 11 May, were photographed by **Szathmari** and **A. D. Reiser**. Unfortunately, the day was a rainy one and all the pictures came quite pale and of low quality. Szathmari produced later a large chromolithographic album depicting the symbolic cars' parade of that day.
- 1882** **Franz Duschek** photographed the charity festival held by the Romanian high society in the Cișmigiu Garden on behalf of the poor.
- In Cluj is published one of the first photographic magazines of the area, "Fényképészeti Lapok" (The Photographic Leaflet). It lasted until 1888.
- 1883** **Fekete Sándor** opens a studio in Oradea. He had one of the longest careers, being active until 1923.
- 1886** **Nestor Heck** issues an album with 55 large photographs depicting the Metropolitan Church in Jassy. That album is also exhibited at the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris where it was awarded an honorable mention.
- 1890** **Fekete Sándor** is honored with the title of *K. und K. Hofphotograph* (Imperial Court Photographer).
- Franz Duschek Jr.** takes pictures with *Carol I Bridge* over the Danube at Cernavodă.
- 1892, July 5** In Bucharest is founded *Societatea Amatorilor de Fotografie din București* (The Bucharest Amateur Photographers Society).
- 1893** **Ioan Niculescu**, former telegraph operator and photographer for the Police Prefecture in Bucharest issues the album *Monumente istorice ale României și tipuri din județele Argeș și Muscel* (Historical Monuments in Romania and Types from the Argeș and Muscel Counties).
- 1894** At the Romanian Cooperative Exhibition held in Bucharest many photographers such as **Ioan Niculescu**, **T. Fachiroff**, **A. Magrin**, **W. Oppelt**, **G. A. Piltz**, **Schmidlin** and **A. Brand** displayed their works.

- 1896** On the occasion of Emperor Franz Joseph's visit to Romania, Bucharest, the capital city, was lavishly decorated. Some of the distinguished photographers, such as **Franz Mandy**, **Ioan Spirescu**, **Gustav Waber** and **Franz Duschek Jr.**, took pictures with those decorations.
- 1897–1898** **Gheorghe Marinescu**, M.D., the outstanding Romanian physician, used X-rays for studying bones diseases.
- 1897–1899** During the *Belgica* Antarctic expedition under Captain Adrien de Gerlache, the Romanian scientist **Emil Racoviță** (1868–1947) took more than 400 pictures (landscapes, wild life, genre pictures). All these images, both prints and negatives, are now in the collections of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History in Bucharest.
- 1899** In Cluj is opened an exhibition of photography.  
In Arad is opened an exhibition of photography, *Az Aradi Amateur-Club Kiállitása* (The Exhibition of Arad Amateur-Club).
- 1900** At the Exposition Universelle in Paris, many Romanian photographers exhibited their works winning important prizes such as **Franz Duschek Jr.** and **Franz Mandy**, who were awarded the silver medal, **Ioan Niculescu** and **Ioan Spirescu**, who were awarded the bronze medal.
- 1901** In Jassy is published “Revista Fotografică” (The Photographic Magazine) under the editorship of I. H. Chaland.
- 1903** In Oradea is founded *Nagyvárad Műkedvelő Fényképezők Köre* (The Amateur Photographers' Circle in Oradea). The First exhibition of the amateur photographers was also organized.
- 1904** In Sibiu is founded a Photo-Club.  
The Amateur Photographers' Circle in Oradea organized its second Exhibition, *Műkedvelő Fényképészek Köre Kiállitása*.  
Nicolae Minovici, M.D., an outstanding coroner, published his work *Nouveaux Procédés de Photographie des Cadavres* (New Ways of Photographing Corpses).
- 1906** At the Romanian General Exhibition, mounted to celebrate King Carol's fortieth year of rule, there was a special photographic section where there were displayed the most interesting pictures taken by outstanding photographers. At the closing of that exhibition, Alexandru Tzigara-Samurçuş acquires for Muzeul de Artă Națională (The National Art Museum, i.e. the Folk Art Museum) he was organizing, all the photographic collection (some 200 prints) exhibited by the **Manakia Brothers**, photographers in Bitolia, Macedonia (then part of the Ottoman Empire). In those pictures they vividly rendered the day by day life of their countrymen, mostly itinerant shepherds.

- Alexandru Bellu**, a wealthy boyar who took photography as his favorite pastime, exhibited his works with folk types. Most of his photographs were printed as picture postcards and very well sold as souvenirs at the Romanian General Exhibition.
- 1907** In Timișoara is opened an important exhibition of photography, *Országos Műkedvelő és Háziipari Kiállítás Műkedvelő-Fényképészeti Osztály* (The General Exhibition of Amateur Photographers).
- In Arad is opened *Országos Művészeti Fényképkiállítás* (The General Exhibition of Art Photographs).
- 1911** In Arad is opened the second General Exhibition of Art Photographs.
- 1913** In Oradea is opened *A Nagyváradai Photo-Club II. Házi Kiállítása* (The Exhibition of the Oradea Photo-Club).
- Manual de Fotografie* (The Photography Handbook) by Lieutenant Colonel V. Carșinescu, head of the prints section of the Photographic Department of the Army, is published (Bucharest, 1913).
- 1917–1918** The Photographic Department of the Great General Staff edited propaganda pictures from the East Front. Each picture was 18x24 cm and labeled accordingly. They depicted various aspects of the life in campaign: Romanian troops in trenches, German prisoners of war, generals reviewing the troops, King Ferdinand and Queen Marie awarding medals to the braves. Ioan Oliva, lieutenant of the reserve (later captain) was the head of the Army Photographic Department. For his work and distinguished service he was awarded the “Crown of Romania” Order with swords.
- Photography was no longer a specialized job: many officers had their own cameras and took pictures as amateur photographers.
- 1922** In Oradea is founded *Asociația Fotografilor Profesioniști* (The Professional Photographers’ Association).
- At the Professional Photographers Congress held in Cluj is founded *Uniunea Generală a Fotografilor din România* (The General Union of Photographers of Romania). This organization had its own organ called “Fotografia” (The Photography) with the editorial office in Cluj.
- 1924, January 24** In Bucharest is founded *Uniunea Fotografilor Români* (The Romanian Photographers’ Union). A trilingual magazine was published under the title of “Fotograf. Organul Uniunii Fotografilor Români” (The Photographer. The Romanian Photographers’ Union Organ). Its editor was also the Union’s President, **Etienne Lonyai**.
- May 14–15** The first Congress of Professional Photographers is held in Bucharest.

- 1926** **Etienne Lonyai** founded another periodical, "Foto-Curier" (Photo Courier).  
In Alba Iulia is founded *Cercul Amatorilor Fotografi din România* (The Amateur Photographers' Circle of Romania). Their periodical was entitled "Fotografia Română" (The Romanian Photography).
- 1929** Dimitrie Gusti, head of the Bucharest Sociological School, employed **Iosif Berman** as a photographer for his monographic research teams.
- 1934** A new periodical is published in Bucharest, "Revista Fotografică Română" (The Romanian Photographic Magazine), under the editorship of **Etienne Lonyai**.
- December 16** In Bucharest is founded *Asociația Fotografi Amatori Români* (The Romanian Amateur Photographers' Association). Its periodical, "Fotografia" (The Photography), was published between 1936 and 1941.
- 1937** **Nicolae Ionescu**, an outstanding photographer based in Bucharest, dreaming to organize a museum of photography, initiated a Romanian Photographic Encyclopedia.
- 1944, August 24** **Carol Szathmari**'s house on the Biserica Enei Street, in which his son, the painter **Alexandru Satmary**, still kept his collections and glass plates, was destroyed by the bombardment of the retreating German Army. Thus was lost the most important archive of nineteenth-century photographs.
- 1954, November 3–30** *The First National Contest of Tourist Pictures* is organized by Consiliul Central al Sindicatelor (The Trade Unions Central Council, hereafter: C.C.S.) at the Centrocop Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1955, December – 1956, January** *The Art Photography Contest "Patria noastră"* (Our Country) is organized by the Ministry of Culture at the Brezoianu Gallery.
- 1956, March** *The Second National Contest of Tourist Pictures* of C.C.S. is held in Bucharest.
- November 28** *Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi* (The Art Photographers' Association) is founded. From now on a vivid photographic activity, both amateur and professional, is sustained by this organization.
- 1957, March** *The Third National Contest of Tourist Pictures* of C.C.S. is held in Bucharest.
- 1958, December 21–30** *The First Exhibition of Amateur Photographers from the Romanian Academy's Institutes and Centers* is held at Casa Oamenilor de Știință (The Scientists' House) in Bucharest.
- 1959, November 23 – December 30** *The Second International Art Photography Exhibition of the Popular Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.

- 1961** AZO Mureș, a factory of chemicals based in Târgu Mureș, produces, beside pesticides, a large range of high quality photographic materials such as paper, films and developing solutions.
- November 21 – 1962, January 7** *The Third International Art Photography Exhibition of the Popular Republic of Romania* is held at the Palace Hall in Bucharest.
- 1963, November 16 – December 8** *The Fourth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Popular Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery.
- 1965, September 20 – October 20** *The Fifth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Popular Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery.
- The Fourth FIAP Biannual Color Exhibition* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1967, May 22 – June 12** *The Sixth Art International Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held in Bucharest.
- June 25 – July 20** The same exhibition is opened in Cluj.
- 1968, January** The first issue of “Fotografia. Caiet selectiv” (The Photography. Selective Copybook) – the organ of Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi – is published.
- 1969, Mai – July** *The Seventh International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held in Bucharest. The same exhibition is opened in Jassy.
- 1971, June – July** *The Eighth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest. The same exhibition is opened in Timișoara.
- 1973, September** *The Ninth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1975, September** *The Tenth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest. The same exhibition is opened in Arad.
- 1977, November 28 – December 18** *The Eleventh International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1979, December 17 – 1980, January 8** *The Twelfth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1981, June 8–28** *The Thirteenth International Art Photography Exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania* is held at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1983** The first exhibition of *Carol Szathmari’s Photographs* is opened at the Library of the Romanian Academy.

- 1984, May** *Photo-Art, The First National Photographic Exhibition* is held at the Art Museum in Ploiești.
- September** *Paul Caponigro's pictures* are exhibited in Bucharest at the Gallery of Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi. The exhibit was organized by The International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House. A catalog accompanied that event.
- 1985** Constantin Săvulescu publishes his work *Cronologia ilustrată a fotografiei din România. Perioada 1834–1916* (The Illustrated Chronology of Photography in Romania, 1834–1916), the first and only work on Romanian history of photography. It is still the major contribution in this respect.
- 1986, October** *The Pre-Raphaelite Photography* exhibition is opened at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest. It was later itinerated to Cluj and Jassy.
- The Second Biannual Photographic Exhibition* is held in Galați.
- Photo-Art, The Second National Photographic Exhibition* is held at the Art Museum in Ploiești.
- 1988, October** PREMPHOTO, *The Biannual Photographic Exhibition* takes place in Oradea.
- 1989, March – April** A *Nadar* exhibition is opened at the French Library in Bucharest to celebrate one hundred and fifty years since the birth of photography.
- July** To celebrate the one hundred and fifty years since the birth of photography, a section of the exhibition *Tezaur de civilizație bucureșteană* (Treasure of Bucharest Civilization) was devoted to the nineteenth-century Romanian photographers. The exhibition's curator was Adrian-Silvan Ionescu, author of these lines.
- 1990** *World Press Photo Exhibition* is held in Bucharest.
- April 20** *Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi din București* (The Bucharest Art Photographers' Association) is founded.
- The magazine "Fotografia" ceases its publication.
- 1991, September** "Fotografia & Video" (Photography & Video), the new series of Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi's magazine is published under the editorship of Mihai Muscelanu.
- October** First courses of contemporary photography are held at the Academy of Fine Arts (former "Nicolae Grigorescu" Fine Arts Institute, now The National University of Arts).
- November – December** *The Seventeenth International Art Photography Exhibition* of Romania is held in Bucharest.
- 1992** The *GAD Photo-Gallery* is founded at the National Theatre's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery.

- Asociația Artiștilor Fotografi is evacuated from the Universul Palace by the new owners of the building who refused to renew the contract. The archives and library are relocated in two empty rooms of the former Museum of Decorative Arts (Știrbey Palace). Ten years later the Association loses also that place and offers its archives and collections of photography to the Photo-Video Department of the National University of Arts.
- March – April** The exhibition *Pictures by Carol Pop de Szathmari in the National Museum of Art's Collections* was curated by Ruxandra Balaci.
- July** *Decennium. Exhibition of Finish Photography* is opened at the Museum of the City of Bucharest.
- November** An Art Photography Exhibition is held at the National Theatre in Craiova.
- 1993** *Photo Son Festival, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Slide Show* is held in Timișoara.
- September** *Fifth Art Photography Exhibition* is held in Târgu Mureș.
- October** *Third National Art Photography Exhibition "Alutus"* is held in Râmnicu Vâlcea.
- First Art Photography Exhibition PREMFOTO* is held in Oradea.
- November** *Fourth Art Exhibition PRO-NATURA* is held in Odorheiu Secuiesc.
- 1994, September – October** *Fox Talbot Exhibition* takes place at the National Theatre's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery which was organized with the cooperation of the Romanian Ministry of Culture and the British Council.
- October – December** *Indian Generations. American Ethnophotography Exhibition* at GAD Photo-Gallery in Bucharest is curated by Adrian-Silvan Ionescu. An illustrated catalog was published to accompany that exhibit.
- 1995** "Photo & Video" magazine ceases its publication.
- August** *World Press Photo Exhibition* is held for the second time in Bucharest.
- The exhibition *Fotografia veche de la ASTRA Sibiu* (Old Photographs from ASTRA, Sibiu) is opened at the Romanian Peasant Museum in Bucharest.
- September – October** *The Eighteenth International Art Photography Exhibition of Romania* is held in Brașov.
- October** Photo-Video-Digital Processed Image Department is founded at the National University of Arts in Bucharest.
- 1996, April – May** *Camera Work and the Pictorialist Photography* exhibition, organized by Musée d'Orsay, is opened at the National Museum of Art in Bucharest.

- June – July** The exhibition *Mari artiști ai secolului XX* (Great Twentieth-Century Artists) by **Novarro** is opened at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery of the National Theatre in Bucharest.
- June – July** *The Fifth International Art Photography Exhibition “Nature & Sport”* is held in Brașov.
- 1997, April – May** *Dan Dinescu’s pictures* are exhibited at the Dalles Gallery in Bucharest.
- 1998, July – August** *The Nineteenth Century, Our Contemporary. Old Photographs from Adrian-Silvan Ionescu’s Collection* exhibition opened at the Mogoșoaia Palace.
- 2000, December 14–16** *Foto Media 2000. First Romanian Press Photography Contest and Exhibition* is held in Bucharest.
- 2001** *Galeria Nouă* (The New Gallery), dealing entirely with photo-video art, is founded in Bucharest.
- 2002** GAD Photo-Gallery is closed.
- March** *FOTOMEDIA. National Press Photography Contest* is organized by Asociația Fotografilor de Presă din România (The Press Photographers’ Association in Romania).
- April** *Manakia Brothers’ Pictures* are exhibited at the Romanian Peasant Museum.
- July 29 – August 15** *Iosif Berman’s pictures* are exhibited at the Museum of the City of Bucharest.
- October** *Foto Cabinet* studio is opened in Bucharest by Eugen Ciocan, a young photographer fond of nineteenth-century studio portraits which he tried to revive. The studio is located on George Enescu Street. In November 2007 the studio was moved to 14 Paris Street, Bucharest.
- November 14–17** For the first time a Romanian historian of photography, Adrian-Silvan Ionescu is invited to *Oracle XX, the International Meeting of Photography Curators and Directors*. The meeting was organized by Museum Ludwig in Cologne and held both in Cologne and Bad Honnef. I delivered a paper about *Carol Szathmari and His Importance for the History of Photography*.
- September – 2003 April** The exhibition *Carol Pop de Szathmari (1812–1887). Martor al epocii* [Carol Pop de Szathmari (1812–1887). Witness of his Epoch] is opened at the National Military Museum, curated by Viorica Neagu and Cornelia König.
- 2003, November 9** The documentary *Eye Witness: Carol Pop de Szathmari*, directed by Gabriel Cobasnian, screenplay and narration Adrian-Silvan Ionescu, produced by the Armed Forces Film Studio is awarded the



- prize of the 14e Ressegna Cinematografica Internazionale “Eserciti e Populi” in Bracciano, Italy.
- 2004, March – April** The exhibition *150 de ani de fotografie în Spania* (150 Years of Photography in Spain) is opened at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery in Bucharest.
- June – December** The exhibition *Copiii și copilăria în fotografia secolului al XIX-lea / Children and Childhood in Nineteenth-Century Photography*, is opened at the National Military Museum. It was curated by Viorica Neagu and Cornelia König.
- November 18–22** On my second participation at *Oracle XXII*, held in Chicago, I presented, with great success, the documentary *Eye Witness: Carol Pop de Szathmari*.
- September – November** *Leonard Misson’s Pictures* are exhibited at the National Museum of Art in Bucharest.
- 2006, June 8 – July 31** The exhibition *Sacred Legacy. Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian* is opened at the National Museum of Art.
- September** *Vasile Blendea’s Portraits of Writers* are posthumously exhibited at the National Museum of Romanian Literature in Bucharest.
- 2007, September** The exhibition *Refractări. Willy Pragher – spații vizuale românești 1924–1944* (Refractions. Willy Pragher – Romanian Visual Spaces 1924–1944) is opened at the “Dimitrie Gusti” National Village Museum in Bucharest.
- August – October** The exhibition *Zbor în trecut. Fotografii de Georg Gerster* (Past from Above. Pictures by Georg Gerster) is opened at the History Museum in Sibiu. In 2007, Sibiu was chosen as the European Cultural Capital. The same exhibition is opened at the National Museum of Romanian History in Bucharest (October – November 2007).
- November 5–8** The International Symposium *Photograph Heritage in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe: Past, Present, and Future*, organized by the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles, California, the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava and the Slovak National Library in Martin, was held at the Suza Conference Center in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. For the first time a timeline of Romanian Photography was presented to an international audience by the author of this paper. Thus everybody in attendance acknowledged the great importance of the photographers active in Romania for the worldwide history of photography.
- November 20 – December 20** The exhibition *Evenimente și figuri de muzicieni în fotografiile lui Vasile Blendea* (Musical Events and Musicians in Vasile Blendea’s Pictures) is opened at the “George Enescu” National Museum in

- Bucharest. **Blendea** (1937–2005) was a photographer deeply involved in portraying the Romanian intelligentsia.
- December 11 – 2008, February 10** – The exhibition *Fotografii interzise și imagini personale* (Forbidden Photographs and Personal Images) by **Andrei Pandele** is opened at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery at the National Theatre in Bucharest.
- 2008, January 17 – February 17** – The exhibition *Restituiri artistice* (Artistic Restitutions) comprising works by the outstanding photographer **Dan Er. Grigorescu** (1917–1990) is opened at the Dialog Gallery in Bucharest.
- February 5–25** – The exhibition *Maramureș, Pictures by Baudoin Lotin* is opened at the National Village Museum in Bucharest. **Baudoin Lotin** (b. 1953) is a Belgian photographer who was fascinated by that area in north-western Romania and devoted his time to portray it.
- May 1–31** – *Mediafax Foto – Best of 2007* exhibition is displayed on the National Art Museum's fence. The exhibit consists of fifty press photos taken by the photojournalists and collaborators of Mediafax.
- May 13–18** – The exhibition *Culorile timpului. Arta sinagogilor din Moldova* (Time Colors: Synagogue Art in Moldavia), comprising pictures by **Teodor Răileanu** is opened at the National Village Museum in Bucharest.
- June 26 – July 4** – Adrian-Silvan Ionescu received a grant from the International Museum of Photography and Film at George Eastman House, Rochester, NY, which enabled him to do some research in the museum's archives and to lecture about the Romanian 19<sup>th</sup> century ethnophotography.
- July 30 – August 17** – The exhibition *Foto Peru. Earth, Water, Sky* comprising pictures by **Dragoș Florescu** is opened at the National Village Museum in Bucharest.
- November 7–9** – The first Romanian participation at the European Society of History of Photography's Thirtieth Annual Conference in Vienna: Adrian-Silvan Ionescu is invited to deliver the paper *Szathmari: From a War Photographer to a Ruling Prince's Court Painter and Photographer*.