Ion STROESCU in Ploiesti

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The paper will be presented by Associate Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexandru Popa from the The Oil and Gas University, Department of Mechanical Engineering. You certainly wonder what connection may be between an oil and gas specialty engineer and Professor Ion Stroescu, the eminent scientist in the field of experimental aerodynamics and aviation whose work has been recognized and appreciated by scientists from the country and abroad, such as Elie Carafoli, Victor Valcovici, Mitu Dumitrescu, Nicolae Vasilescu - Karpen, Ribeaud, Betz, Ludwieg Prandtl, Edmond Brun, Paul Metral, Albert Toussaint, etc.

The answer is quite simple: Mr. Popa is passionate about history of personalities related to the city of Ploiesti. He has published articles in "Attitudes", a city magazine issued by the House of Culture "I.L.Caragiale" of Ploiesti, writing a series about the one who inspired his love for history, the remarkable professor Nicolae Simache. He also has written about the journalist and writer Ion Dragomir (Alexandru Popovici) and, in the latest issue of the magazine, about the great mathematician Dimitrie Pompeiu who proposed the establishment of the Schoolmasters' Society of the Boys School No.1 of Ploiesti which functioned between 1893 and 1898.

I have another proof of Mr. Alexandru Popa's passion for history. Along with three other colleagues (Prof. Cristian Pavel, Andrei Vasilescu and Valentin Ceausu) he is part of the team that founded and organizes the activities of the seminar "Aspects of the History of Mechanics" under the aegis of the Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania.

When I told him that Professor Ion Stroescu was born and spent his childhood and youth in Ploiesti he got excited and agreed to look for his traces in his native town. And you will realize that he has found very interesting and unusual things.

Before giving the floor to Mr. Popa, please allow me to recall a single episode. One day, as a pupil at the High School in Ploiesti, the schoolboy Ion Stroescu jumped off the boarding school building which was about 6 m. high, using a colleague's umbrella as a parachute. In the fall, the umbrella twisted upside down and he landed on the stable waste, where he got pretty much stuck. Fortunately, he escaped not much injured, with only a few scratches and bruises. For that jump his colleague, the owner of the umbrella under discussion, who was more robust than him, licked him soundly.

It seems that the above happening announced since that time the future genius of experimental aerodynamics and aviation!

In late August 2011 Mr. Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Ceausu, during a telephone conversation about the meeting of the organizers of the seminar *Aspects of the history of mechanics*, informed me that at INCAS Bucharest, an anniversary session dedicated to Professor Stroescu would be held on September, 15.

After telling me some aspects of Stroescu's life, and of avatars through which he has reentered the attention of contemporaries, Mr. Ceausu asked me if we could participate together with a paper about Professor Stroescu's "Ploiesti period".

My deep passion for local history and patriotism led me to accept that challenge. At the seminar organizers' meeting I received from Prof. Ceausu a folder containing photocopies of reports about Ion Stroescu, and also an autobiography sketch that demonstrates the great sense of humor of the author.

Armed with these preliminary data I began researching at the Prahova branch of the Romanian National Archive. The results are presented below.

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Fig.1

From the Ploiesti civil registry of birth (file12/1888, page 60 overleaf) I've extracted the birth certificate No. 923, drawn on August 14,1888, from which we've learned that *"Stroescu G. Alexe Ion was born today at two o'clock in the morning in the town of Ploesci at the residence of his father and mother, in a house on Gloria Street, in St. Emperors Constantin and Helen suburbs, as a son of Mr. Alexe G Stroescu, 33 years old, merchant by profession, and of Mrs. Paraschiva born Constantin Ion,18 years old, housekeeper. Witnesses: Nita L Gogoasa, 40 years old, shoemaker and G.P. Grigorescu, 32 yearsold, clerk, both from the suburbs of <i>"Precista-The Holly Virgin"*.

Gloria Street is today called Ion Luca Caragiale and the house at number 23, (mentioned in the autobiography) in which the Stroescu family lived and which passed the barrier of time could be that in Fig. 2, whether obviously the numbering of that period was preserved.



Fig. 2

A plan detail of the "town of Ploesci" drawn up in 1882 by architect Thomas N. Socolescu [1] presents in Fig. 3 the layout of Gloria Street. A picture of St. Emperors Constantine and Helen Church in 1934, taken from work 2, is shown in Fig 4.

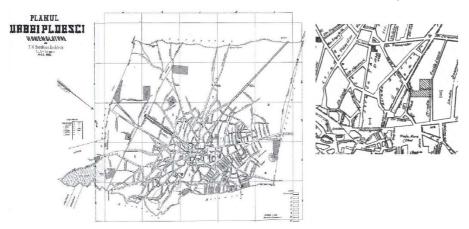


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

The "Dossier of marriage of Mr. Alecse G Stroescu to Miss Parascheva C. Ion" registered at No 249, on October 2, 1887, seemed very interesting to me. I also found in this file the baptismal certificate of Alecse G. Stroescu, who was baptized on September 19, 1855 at the St Nicolas Church from Bacifalu, Brasov County, as son of George Stroe (become Stroescu) and of his wife, Reveica.





The father George Stroe was a merchant. From a classification of localities of the Romanian People's Republic I have learned that the village Bocifalu was named later Bosfalau, and was included in the town of Sacele. I also found the birth certificate of Miss

Parascheva C. Ion of June 29, 1871 which shows that "she was born at 11 am yesterday night", as a daughter of Constantin Ion 38 years old, and his wife Constantina born Gheorghe, 24 years old.

 \mathbb{R}^{n}_{i} 11.11 Judetul Pla de 3 Primaria comunei Dis registry) a tala male apt sule _ C. / . 1 04 ź EXECUTAT DIRECTIA JUDETEANÀ LA PRAHOVA ÷. Fig. 6

The file also includes wedlock publications displayed in churches St. Stephen and St. Emperors Constantine and Helen to which belonged the prospective grooms, the declaration

of 4 witnesses who attested the validity of marriage, the civil status certificate attesting the marriage that took place on 15 oct.1887 (Fig .10).

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Fig. 7

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Fig. 9

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From the autobiography we've learned that his father died when his son was 6 and a half years old. From the civile status registry (file 187/1895, page 106), death certificate no. 207, we've found that Alexe G. Stroescu died on March 5, 1895 (page 11).

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Fig. 11

From his autobiography I've found that he I started school at the Boys' Primary School No. 6, in September 1895. Fig 12 shows his registration certificate of the first grade which he promoted with a general average mark of 7.85 out of 10.

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Fig. 12

The school building has withstood time and can be seen on Bobalna Street but in time it changed its destination (Fig. 13).



Fig 13

According to his autobiography Stroescu attended Boys' Primary School No. 5, but, unfortunally, we couldn't find the registration certificates from that period. The school building is still located in Romana Street where over the years the future great poet Nikita Stanescu would learn.



Fig. 14

From those presented by Eng. Viorel Vioreanu in his conference held on June 28, 1978, and entitled "Professor Stroescu, a pioneer in aerodynamics" we found out that he attended primary school and some college grades in Ploesti and he completed the remaining grades at a private high school in Bucharest. I've searched the archive of "St. Peter and Paul" High School in Ploiesti (fig. 14) and I've found Stroescu's registration certificates for the third and fourth grade that we present in Figure 15 and 16.

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Fig. 16

Note that he promoted both classes in September after going in for a second examination in French (finally, he obtained the same mark, 6 out of 10).

The certificate no. 547 of April 1, 1961 registered at the People's Council of the district 1Mai of Bucarest stating his death, is specified on Professor Stroescu's birth certificate.We couldn't identify other documents related to his staying in Ploiesti.

In the end of my exposure I wish to warmly thank the team who ensure the proper functioning of the Prahova branch of the Romanian National Archives, for the solicitude they showed during my resrearch on Profesor Stroescu's life.

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