

NEW DATA ON LIFE AND ACTIVITY OF PHYSICIAN HILARIUS MITREA

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Abstract. New data are presented about the travel made by Hilarius Mitrea to Australia as physician on the ship “Peter Godeffroy” that transported German immigrants in 1865; two pieces from the archive donated by Helen Kämpf–Mitrea are presented: a letter from Wattam, his Indonesian wife, from 25th of April 1895, that denies that she died before 1881 and the death certificate of Hilarius Mitrea mentioning the cause of death: heart attack.

Keywords: Hilarius Mitrea, voyage, Wattam, letter, death certificate.

Many papers were written about this subject, of life and activity of physician Hilarius Mitrea from Rășinari who served in the Dutch Colonial Army (KNIL) from Indonesia for 25 years (1869–1894).

The present paper is dedicated to some explanations of some episodes from Mitrea’s life who remained a little obscure.

First of all about his voyage to Australia in 1865. First author who mentioned it was Emil Pop (1971, 1994, postumous). In his paper from 1971, this affirmation is made: “In documents we have I found a confirmation from the police from the ship Peter Godeffroy in which was specified that the ship that traveled to Australia had Germans on board. This document is dated 14 August 1865 on Brisbane harbour and it’s referring to the surgeon of the ship Ilarie Mitrea during his travel from Hamburg to Brisbane. I personally don’t know that any Romanian could have traveled before Mitrea to Australia. The fact that Mitrea didn’t ask for a confirmation from a ship after his return from Australia to Europe, denotes that he returned with an other ship” (Pop, 1971). In 1994, Pop said: “Proximal act in cronological order, is that one delivered by the city of Brisbane from Australia. It’s a proof signed by the emigration agent Murdis of the British ship “Peter Godeffroy” that transported German emigrants from Hamburg to Australia and it’s dated 14 August 1865 in Brisbane harbour. It’s expressing the high appreciation for the devotion of the surgeon of the ship, physician Hilarion Mitrea, during the travel from Hamburg to Brisbane... We don’t exclude that Mitrea could ask for a physician job in some Australian port ... In May 1965, Mitrea’s son, nonagenarian Petru, remembered that his father had the perspective some employments as a ship surgeon or as a physician in some faraway countries, whom he refused because of the lack of sanitarian devices for surgical interventions. This is one explanation why Mitrea refused the profession of ship physician and the passport for Australia, with a year before its expiring. Meanwhile a new hope appeared for him: Mexico.” (Pop, 1994)

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Our comments are based of data found on the internet. So, the ship “Peter Godeffroy” was not English as Pop mentioned, but German. It was a ship with three masts of the company *Johann Cesar Godeffroy und Sohn* from Hamburg. This ship transported copper from West Samoa to Europe. In its way to Australia it brought German immigrants starting with 1855. It also transported provisions to the French garrison from Valparaiso, Chili.

Knowing all these we could understand in different way than Pop the signification of the document from Brisbane.

Brisbane August 14th
1865

I hereby confirm that Dr. Hilarion
Mitrea late Surgeon to the German Immigrant
Ship "Peter Godeffroy" performed his duties
during the voyage from Hamburg
to this port in a highly satisfactory
manner. —

[Signature]
Assistant Immigration Officer

Fig. 1. Confirmation of Mitrea activity as a ship surgeon, Brisbane, 14 August 1865 (after Pop, 1971).

“I hereby confirm by this that Dr. Hilarion Mitrea, late surgeon of the German immigrant ship “Peter Godeffroy” performed his duties during the voyage from Hamburg v. this port in a highly satisfactory manner.

Murdis (or Murdie?)
Assistant Immigration agent”

The expression “late surgeon” could suggest us that Mitrea resigned before 14 August 1865 when that paper was released.

On the site of the Australian National Archive we found “Australia Trove Digitised newspapers and more” (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/16>). Here we could read more about the voyage of “Peter Godeffroy” to Australia. The ship, built in Germany in 1848 or in Sweden was launched to water in Hamburg in 1851. The crew of 20 persons includes also a surgeon. The last trip to Australia was in 1865. After its return to Hamburg via Rotterdam, in 1866, the ship was sold to Prussia in 1867 who baptised the ship as “Wilhelm”.

“Peter Godeffroy” left Hamburg on 9 April 1865 with 238 German emigrants on board, 59 of them, in majority children, died on way to Brisbane because of measles. The ship arrived to Brisbane on 7 August.

In a few numbers of the Australian newspaper “The Brisbane Courier” from August 8, 25, 28 and from September 11, 1865 is related about the arrival of the ship in Brisbane harbour and the interpellations from Australian Parliament the case of inquiry on the disastrous arrival in the above mentioned condition.

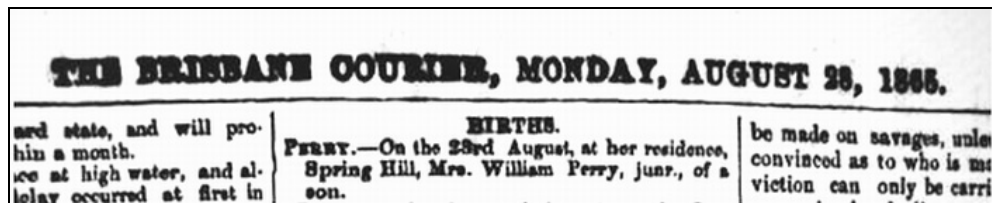


Fig. 2. “The Brisbane Courier”, Monday, August 28, 1865, page 2.

The captain of the ship, T. Meyer, declared to the newspaper from Monday 28 August: “Sir, On reading your paper of this morning I was somewhat astonished that your journal should lend its leading columns to the discussion of important matters on vague assertions, instead of looking more to facts. You ought to know that the Government of Queensland have instituted an inquiry as to the cause of the great mortality on board of my vessel, and while the inquiry is pending I refrain from asserting any facts, or anticipating the results, which, however, I do not fear. I do not shrink from being called to justice, while, on the other hand, I think it my duty to see justice done to myself, and likewise to my employers, Messrs. Joh. Cesar Godeffroy and Son, in whose service I have been for the last 25 years, this circumstance is the sole reason for not leaving this port sooner. With regard to your remark, it has been frequently proved that the German vessels are filthy,” I have only to observe that this assertion is contrary to facts, and further inform you that in respect to cleanliness, the German mercantile fleet ranks second only to the Dutch, which takes the first place. The surgeon of the vessel, Dr. Mitrea, does not think it in his province to reply to your allusion to the superintendence “of a quasi medical practitioner,” after having undergone a course of five years study in the chief universities of Germany and Austria (Universities from Würzburg, Germany and Vienna, our note). By giving a place to this short statement in your paper you will oblige your most obedient servant, T. Meyer”.

In the “Brisbane Courier” from September 11, 1865 we could read the words of Australian authorities, A. C. Kembball, President and J. Mackenzie Shaw, Honourable of the Colony Secretary: “Sir, we do ourselves the honor of reporting to you that we have terminated a protracted inquiry in relation to the mortality which occurred in the ship Peter Godeffroy, on her late voyage to this colony. Relying upon the evidence of the surgeon of that vessel, given in a most satisfactory manner, and who, as far as we are enabled to judge, has proved himself to be an efficient officer, and further upon the statement of Dr. Lansdown, corroborating his opinion, that the germ of the

disease which proved so fatal on the voyage existed amongst the immigrants before their boarding, we feel ourselves justified in coming to the conclusion that the rumors now current respecting such mortality are unfounded. We beg to refer you to the evidence given by four of the married families, which, we submit, is satisfactory in the following essential particulars: 1. That measles, from which the greater number of deaths arose, appeared very soon after the vessel left port. 2. That all due regard was paid to cleanliness, and every sanitary precaution taken by the surgeon. 3. That medical comforts were issued to the sick throughout the voyage. 4. That the supply of food and water was in accordance with the prescribed dietary scale. 5. That the surgeon administered to the sick with kindness and attention, and that his habits were strictly sober. Whether the capacity, general arrangements, and ventilation of the Peter Godeffroy were equal to all the requirements, we are not in a position to determine, but are inclined to think that the hospital accommodation was somewhat defective; nor can we suppose that the Peter Godeffroy was furnished with all the modern appliances for the comfort of the sick, as enforced in ships chartered by her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners. Whether the conveniences for cooking were very perfect may, perhaps, also be questioned; but, on the whole, we feel assured there is no ground for censure, affecting either the owners, master, or surgeon of the Peter Godeffroy, touching the mortality which has been made the subject of our inquiry. The patients admitted into the Brisbane Hospital from the Peter Godeffroy ship were, according to the testimony of the surgeon, and confirmed by Dr. Lansdown, medical officer of that institution, in a state of extreme debility from serious and protracted illness. We have, &c., A. C. Kemball, Chairman. J. Mackenzie Shaw. The honorable the Colonial Secretary.

(“The Brisbane Courier”, Monday, September 11 1865, page 3).

We didn't succeed to find which was the verdict, but is quite sure that Mitrea released his job of ship physician after a few days after his arrival to Australia.

Also on internet we found on “Australian Medical Pioneers Index” (<http://www.medicalpioneers.com/>) the future mention on Mitrea (with inerent gaps of biography):

“He was a passanger on “Peter Godeffroy” when he left for Valparaiso on 1 September 1865.

Thanks: the registration was made on July 2005 with informations added by Gillian Arnot Smith from Queensland, Australia. References: Hamburg list of passengers, Last registration 29-07-2005 (data from “The Brisbane Courier”, no. 16, from 29 August 1865). About the reason for which Mitrea traveled to Valparaiso we couldn't say anything for sure. It's possible that Mitrea returned to Hamburg also with “Peter Godeffroy”, in March 26 1866, Mitrea will join the Austrian corp of volunteers for sustaining emperor Maximilian II of Mexico.

The rest of the data belong from personal archive of Hilarius Petrus, his son (Fig. 4), from archive of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of natural History from Bucharest, from Romanian Academy Library from Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, Emil Pop found.



Fig. 3. Group of physicians from the volunteers, Austrian corps from Mexico, Mitrea right extreme, upper row, photo made before their voyage to Mexico (Triest, 1866) (Archive of "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History)

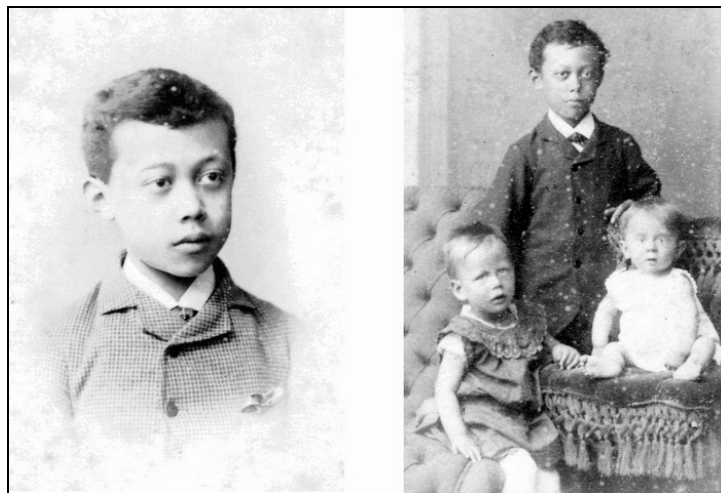


Fig. 4. Hilarius Petrus Mitrea, pupil in Zürich (left), together with Fredi and Albert Haupt (right) (Personal archive of Reinhard Kämpf).

Mitrea's son, Hilarius Petrus, was born in Borneo, on June 3, 1875 and died on August 18, 1965 in Ankara. Dr. Mitrea brought his children to Europe in 1881. He left Mary in an Austrian pension and took Petrus with him in Romania; before Mitrea's living back to Indonesia in summer of 1882 he left Petrus in a school from Zürich in a Swiss family named Haupt. Mrs. Mayer, wife of Mr. Haupt took care of him as mother (probably Mitrea knew her before). So, Petrus grew together with sons of this family, Fredi and Albert. He graduated from the Polytechnic from

Zürich and became a successful engineer who worked for Simplon tunnel and spent about 30 years in Turkey where he built several railways.

Hilarius Petrus, engineer, firstly established in Switzerland and then in Turkey, where he died in Ankara, donated them through his daughter, physician Helen Kämpf-Mitrea from Berna, Switzerland, part of this archive to Emil Pop, with his wish to be finally deposited in “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History (in 1965). Other part of this archive was only consulted by Pop in 1969 (as he mentioned in his paper dedicated to Mitrea and his good friend Ioan Arsenie (Arseniu) from 1971). Those documents were donated by Helen Kämpf to Alexandru Marinescu in 1986.

From that archive we selected a letter sent by his Indonesian wife Wattam Kadam Radam, sent from Semarang on 25 April 1895, letters from different colleagues from the Dutch Colonial Army and the death certificate released by the “Holy Trinity” Oriental-Greek Church Office from Vienna in 6 February 1904.

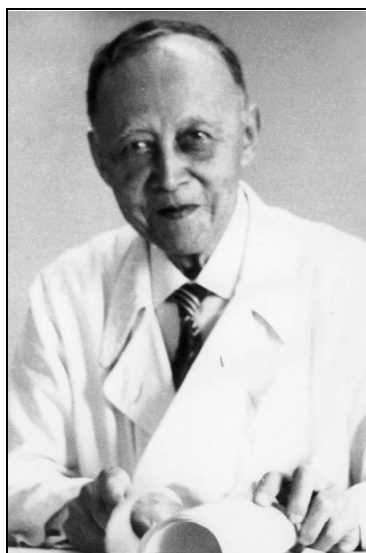


Fig. 5. Petrus Hilarius Mitrea Borneo, 1875 – Ankara, 1965) (Personal archive of Reinhard Kämpf).



Fig. 6. Germaine and Helen Mitrea, daughters of Hilarius Petrus Mitrea, Switzerland, 1933.

Letter of Wattam, in Malayan, on two lined pages has the following content:

“Semarang, 25 April 1895

Dear Mr. Mitrea,

I received your letter with money (20 rupiah). I want to thank you and to our children Petru and Mary.

A few time ago I ordered for a photo of mine from Semarang that I'll send you with Governmental Dutch Transport.

I planted 10 coconut trees, 8 pete, also corn and rice in the plantation; “sawo” (Sapodilla o. n.) just has a lot of fruits. I also previously done this with two or three such trees with great fruits.

*Now I have to pay for cultivating the garden, together with other two fields
from the wood for whom I have to pay 4 rupiah per year.
I bought a cow (water buffalo), 10 month ago and it has a calf.*

Many compliments, Wattam.”



Fig. 7. Hilarius Petrus' tomb from Ankara cemetery
(Personal archive of Reinhard Kämpf).

This document is the only written proof of Mitrea's wife existence and infirm what we knew from the past, that his wife died before his departure from Indonesia in 1881. This is for sure what we know about Wattam when Pop wrote his articles on Mitrea.

("Aproximatelly in the same time his wife died and he remained alone with two small children"). He just repeated what he could read in the newspapers of that time, like Nicolae Petra-Petrescu in "Family" from Oradea, no. 11, from 14 March 1882: "In India he married with a creol lady, who died, leaving him a son Petru, now of 6–7 years old".

That information is also repeated by Titu Maiorescu in June 1882, in "Daily Notices", where he told us about the visit of Mitrea along with his son. The source of that information could be Mitrea himself. Mrs Georgeta Stanciu, great-granddaughter of Mitrea, the great granddaughter of his daughter Mary, married with Isdrăilă from Rășinari, remembered that her father, Emilian (from whom Emil Pop obtained the great majority of oral information on Mitrea), knew that his mother, Mary, about the heart-rending separation from her mother, Wattam in 1881. Reading the letter, we are impressed by the tone which was as normal as possible, and by the humbleness of the author of the letter, the way she wrote to her husband. We don't know precisely anything about her photo. We discovered from this document that Mitrea had three properties in Indonesia, two of them in the forest, in Semarang, administrated with lot of passion by his devoted wife. It is possible that those surfaces to have been inherited by her according his first will from 1893 from Batavia, in Dutch East Indies, at his retiring, before his leaving to Europe. We noticed how Wattam begins her letter, using a Romanian word, "Domn" (Sir).



Fig. 8. Possibly Wattam Kadam, Mitrea's wife (Archive of Viorel, son of Petru Ion Isdrăilă, Wattam's great-grandson).



Fig. 9. Dr. Hilarius Mitrea and his son, Hilarius Petrus, approx. 1881, in Vienna (Personal archive of Reinhardt Kämpf).

Samarang 25 April 1895
 Durna Toeran Mitrea
 tempo bolan febelluri
 saya sodag terinu secret
 dari toeran sama olomet
 20 dawa poeg ropia
 saya bilang banyak
 terimakan Durna toeran
 en sama anak anak
 Petrus en ~~Amari~~
 • Larian saya baru sode
 biken potret di Semarang
 poe kirem di negeri
 Belanda
 saya sekarang sode
 tanem ropa ropa
 pohon kelapa 10 pohon
 pete 8 en tanem jagon
 en padi tanem di sawag
 en itoe pohon saso sekora
 sode kelosor banyak
 toeranja.

saya sode biken tboe
 2 jadi 3 pohon sama
 njan besar
 Dekarang mosti baje
 ombos di kaban sama
 di alas 2 tempat mosti
 baje 4 ropia satee tase
 saya beli kerbo baru sepole
 bolan sekarang sodag
 dapat anak satee Caki
 saya kerm hanya tobe
 H. Tam

Fig. 10. Letter of Wattam Kadam, Mitrea's wife (in Malayan, sent from Semarang, to her husband from Europa, on April 25 1895 (Personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu).

Batavia 2 Junij 1880

Geachte Doctor!

Uwe naare inlichtingen om-
trent Pelantoenen waren
my zeer welkom; ik bekruget
U by dese myn welgekonden
doelk voor.

Naar aanleiding van hetgeen
ik van U vernomen, heb ik besl.
ten myn zontje niet naar P.
te reizen, en getracht hem
by den een of ander op een
landelyke zondreneming geplaatst
te krijgen, waarin het geluk
hij gellaaagd ben.

U rugmaak myn hartelyken

Fig. 11. Letter from M. Survingal, Batavia,
2 June 1880 (Personal archive of Alexandru
Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea).

Ik dank u terugende voor al de
Inzette die gy U om myn
Inzette hebt willen getroosten,
verblyf ik met de meeste ach-
ting en steeds tot weder dienst
over

Uw lof dor. d.

M. Survingal

Batavia 24 Maart 1884

Waardig Mitrea,

Uw hartelyke letter
van den 14 dezer, troogten my allen
in den bestend welstand overvragen.

Ik zag allen, daar ook ik gheen
van tearte ben te over de beem heb
ik geen reden het klagen. Sedert
sien maanden in Kloos bejournen
leer de, d'lyke een kwartier te eldrie
deerde, vijf minuten lang alle beem
en vijf minuten lang de Ouden beem.

Deel doornitgang, te 11 1/2
leer beem, door Kloos keef dat die
over beembaan het tyge ten een Oude
leerid eldrie itewen. Aan te beembaan
of het. Een ding is er konnend keem
deur beembaan. Ik had teemlyke

Fig. 12. Letter from J. C. Margavant, Batavia,
24 March 1884 (Personal archive of Alexandru
Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea).

Batavia, March 24th 1884

Dear Mitrea,

We received your most kind letter, from March 14th 1884, in good health.

For myself as well, because I feel healthy and I have no special complaints about my legs. Since a month or two Kloos (a doctor / physiotherapist) made a start with an electrical treatment. Daily during five minutes along my legs and five along my abdomen as well.

Until now I don't feel much progress, but Kloos said that results will show up after about six months. One physical complaint has gone now. My legs felt very heavy during January and February (1884). Because I had to travel to Buitenzorg (Bogor) by train every day, I always felt very tired (because of his legs). In the meantime we found a new house in Parapattan. Location of the house is between the house of Mr Van Delden and the Pharmacy Zelissa. As you understand, it has been a very busy period for my wife and for myself. Our big girls (daughters) helped us very much. Everything is all right now. We still are expecting to receive a couple of things from Europe. I don't worry about that. Our visitor's room is a big one and is complete, so that we shall be very happy to meet you again as our guest. We felt sorry to hear that you suffered from fever again in Palembang, we are happy that your complaints came to an end again. We felt happy also because you received very good / optimistic letters/messages from Petrus and because Marietje is doing quite well.

My namesake, you wrote about, is a nephew, but I have never met him. Maybe I could meet him in Holland in the future.

I succeeded finding a good music lecturer, Mr Slieger, Bandmaster of the Military Staff Orchestra and musical conductor of the Music Club Aurora. He associates with our children very well, specially with the three older children. They told us that Mr Slieger gave them a feeling of special experience while playing music and singing hymns. Which is a unique phenomenon in Batavia. As you can understand, we play a lot of music, as much as we can.

The old gentleman who stood with us, leaved us for Buitenzorg six days ago. He suffered a small accident while driving from the railway station at Buitenzorg to his house. Because of a stupidity of the coachman of his carriage the carriage crashed down. The old gentleman was slightly wounded at his head and his shin-bone. But maybe everything will result in a good end.

Well, dear friend, no special news any more now. Most kind regards from everybody. J.C. Margavant

Kenpangan, June 7, 1888

Highly esteemed doctor,

We still are situated/settled in the South-East Department (colonial province, sort of, DT) of Borneo, Kendangan. In Kendangan I am the local military commander (postcommandant, see letter, for about six months now. I have a request.).

Esteemed doctor, we expect our third child! We have a young doctor here, maybe a good one, but with lack of experience. As you know: while giving birth my wife bleeds profusely. So I ask you to let me know the prescription name of the medicine which my wife needs after giving birth immediately. I shall tell our young doctor here (dr. Koch) that this medicine, prescribed by you during our stay in Atjeh/Aceh.

Dr. Koch is a nice man. He assisted us more than once with medicine based on prescriptions by other doctors.

My wife trusts you more than anyone else and never stops nagging about the name of the prescription. Please, esteemed doctor, I beg your pardon because of bothering you, even in Padang (halfway West Sumatra, DT). Are you doing well? Are your children well? The youngest one is now on his way to Europe as far as I can remember.

You were quite right! Borneo is a good island to live on. But Atjeh/Aceh was better. When I, with wife and children, shall enjoy my furlough (military leave of absence, DT) within the next two years, I shall apply for Atjeh/Aceh again. Then I am going to operate the heliograph (signalling apparatus, early telegraph, DT) again and signal Poeloe Bras (Pulu Bras, DT). Promotions/advancements are hardly possible within the Army Medical Corps nowadays. Maybe circumstances will be better in the future.

My wife and children are well. The little one is our darling now and she is very much aware of that. So she tries to command us as little as she is. She does not call me daddy. She calls me "Taas". She means Klaas (normal name in Holland, comes from Nicolas, DT) of course. She is our ray of sunshine, our little angel. Sinjo (a nickname?, means small gentleman, for his son, DT) is very, very naughty.

Esteemed doctor, please accept our regards

We remain yours faithfully, your obedient servant,

Van der Maaten

Letter from Daniil Popovici Barcianu, Hohenheim, Germany, September 29, 1884, friend of Mitrea from Rășinari (Personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea)

Hohenheim September 29, 1884

Dear Doctor!

Making a trip at the beginning of this month in Switzerland, in Zurich, I saw also Petrus, which I found in convalescence. As you know, he had a throat pain, because of it he had to stay in bed for a couple of time. During my visit, he just awakened from his bed, he felt better and his medicine said that after a few days he could walk. Away from his ill, he sings well, he was taller and speaks better German. He said that he forgot the other languages he had spoken before; there

isn't any surprise for such a young boy who doesn't speaks now and listen other language than German. Next year, having more free time, I'll see him again before my returning home.

As you know, I am in Hohenheim for a year where I felt good. I work here (?) just a little isolated, but this helped us to concentrate on our studies! We are about 100 students here. Last semester there were two Romanians and may be more next year.

As I heard from Petrus, you are now in Palembang. How you like here, is it better than in Batavia? I guess upon have also here a lot of beauties that only the tropical parts have it.

Saluting you many times,
I remain yours,
D. P. Barcianu

P.S. I'll be happy if, having time, you could write me something about the wonders of Sumatra. My address is:

D. P. Barcianu (?) Hohenheim (Württemberg)

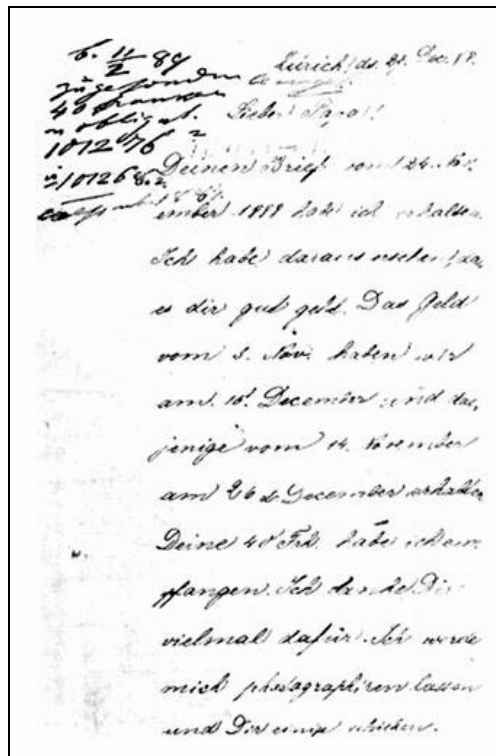


Fig. 14. Letter of Hilarius Petrus Mitrea sent to his father, Zürich, Dec. 27, 1888, page 1 (Personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea).

“Zürich, December 27, 1888

Dear Papa,

I received your letter from November 24 1888 and I am glad to know that you are well. I announce you that the money you sent to me on November 3 I received on December 16 and those sent on November 16 I received on December 26, for whom I thank you very much.

I'll take some photos with me and I send them to you. With the rest of money I'll buy “Universum” and the rest I offer to Fredi and Alberthi. Mr. Haupt says that the obligations from your coupon you sent me are valid up to March. Mrs. Mayer will inform about that next days.

Nice Christmas was gone and its days were crowned with lots of gifts.

For instance, I received from “mama” that takes care of me, the new magazine “Universum” that I wished very much and the play with building pieces from you. Those gifts made me very happy. This play is very interesting and stimulative. With its pieces you may raise different buildings, towers, bazaars, chapels. To those pieces you may add others and you may raise bigger buildings.

I also received from you an album with musical pieces and also some woolen leggings. From Mr. Haupt I received a stand for musical notes and from Emma very nice stationary products.

Even Fredi offered me a purse.

I offered myself (with Mrs. Emma's help) to my mother who take care of me six cups of coffee with their small plates ...” (rest of letter is missing).

Letter of Lud. (Ludovic?) Gramma, Sibiu, June 16, 1880

“Highly honored Doctor!

We are very happy that by those few orders in the best condition of health, happiness and satisfaction.

But both of them, the Oldman (Mitrea's father, our note) is seek, weak and helpless; he is bleeding and his servant is always with soap and water to clean him, he cannot go to the field; and the servant must do everything, he has a lot of suffering and expense with the process for woods – for separation (with mediation).

He has no money for Royal tax, for the field workers, for the separation, people from Rășinari are his enemies, especially Brotea which with Linka go everywhere and oppressed the Oldman – they harrass with short words the Oldman and when he remember you he weeps and cryies. Then came his brother and saw him and took him to the pub and stay with him up to his complete intoxication and his servant came and took him at home.

I ask you to help with money that I believe he has no longer to live. Maybe you remember that small girl which together with Lina took as milk, Mr. Matza is present and sends you good wishes for health and sends you ...

I couldn't send you any novelties, the winter was very heavy and long and lt. Maj. Paul is moving from me.

I expect for eight days that the Oldman would visit me but because of his blood disease he didn't come so I was obliged to send the letter without his signature.

The whole expence for the wine is 316 fl. 74, recommending me I remain yours

Sincere friend,
Lud. Gramma"

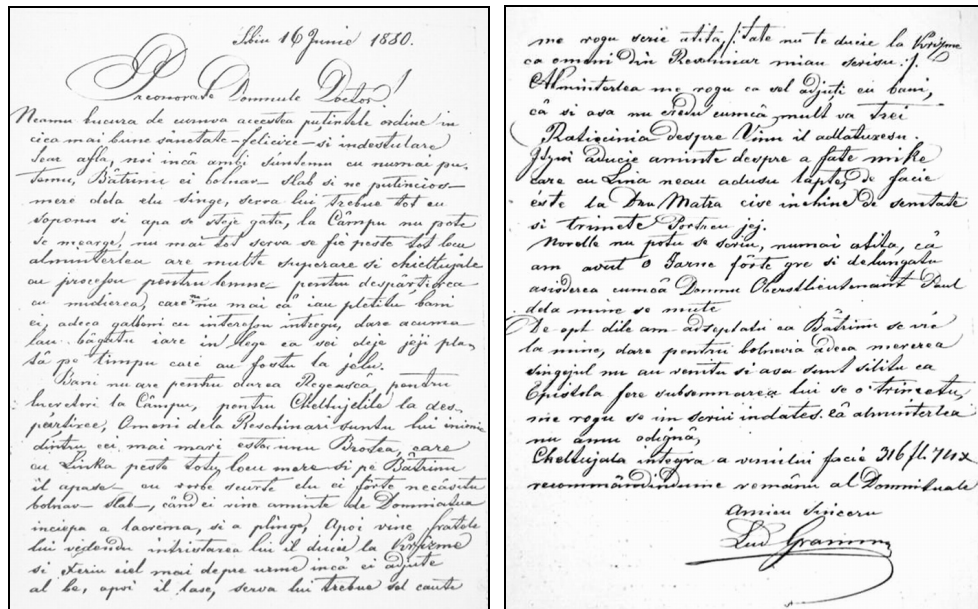


Fig. 15. Letter from Lud. Gramma, 1st page
(Academy Library, Cluj-Napoca, Emil Pop found).

Two letters from C. (Constantin) Hămbășan, director of the school from Rășinari, from March 15/28, 1900 and May 14/27, 1901. Copies of both of them we found in Emil Pop found from the Academy Library from Cluj-Napoca. Hămbășan took care of Mitrea's properties from Rășinari when Mitrea was in Vienna.

Reșinari ¹⁵/₂₈ Martie 1900.

Stimate Dle D.!

Prin aceste rânduri îți fac cunoscut că pe la acum e timpul frumos, dar a fost căsă o răpăci foarte mare, cum nu mi aduc aminte de una așa viscol. Mam dus la Dda și prin curte a fost răpăci până la brâu. Am pus pe Doba de a curățit de prin privar și de pre ferestri în podul casei nu știu ce

se va fi făcut că nu sa găsit cheia. În pivniță am lasat pe Doba în presenta mea de a ales merele putrede pe cari i le am lasat ei. Bela e bine e liberă de pote umbla prin curte și grădina de deirsus. Am dus omeni la fier inse nu vor se dea suma de 300fl. s. a. Mi au făgăduit pe fier și otava 250fl. s. a. și a dis că până Joi în ^{23 Martie} ~~25 Martie~~ 1900 așteaptă răspuns. Deci te rog se fi bun se mi scrie ce se fac deuil cu stăta sau nu.

La grădina sunt tate bine.
Puteși se vënd otava singură și cu cat?
Fânul singur cu cât?
Doba dela fântana Proșcă ite pofteste multă sănătate.
Multe complimente dela noi Domnișori.
Doresc ca aceste rânduri să vă aple în momentele cele mai bune și mai ferice ale sănătății.

C. Hămbășan
director școlar

Fig. 16. Letter of Director C. Hămbășan, 1900, 1st-3rd page (Academy Library, Cluj-Napoca, Emil Pop fund).

“Rășinari, March 15/28, 1900

Dear Dr.!

Inform you with these words that the time is now fine here, but it was a heavy snow and I can't remember such a strong snowstorm. I visited your house and the snow arrived to my girdle in your yard. I put Dobra to clean from verandah and windows, in the attic I don't what she done because we didn't find the key. Dobra verified the apples from the cellar and pick the decayed ones that I offered to her. Bela is all right and free to walk on the yard and on the upper garden. I took people to the hay, but they don't give 300 fl. v. a. They promised me 250 fl. v. a. And told me to wait until Thursday, March 23/April 5 for their answer. Please write me if I could sell like that or not. Everything is all right in the garden. Could I grip the hay and with how much? Hay alone with how much? Dobra from Roșca wish you good health. Many compliments to Miss from us. I wish that those words find you in the best and happiest moments of health. C. Hămbășan, school director”

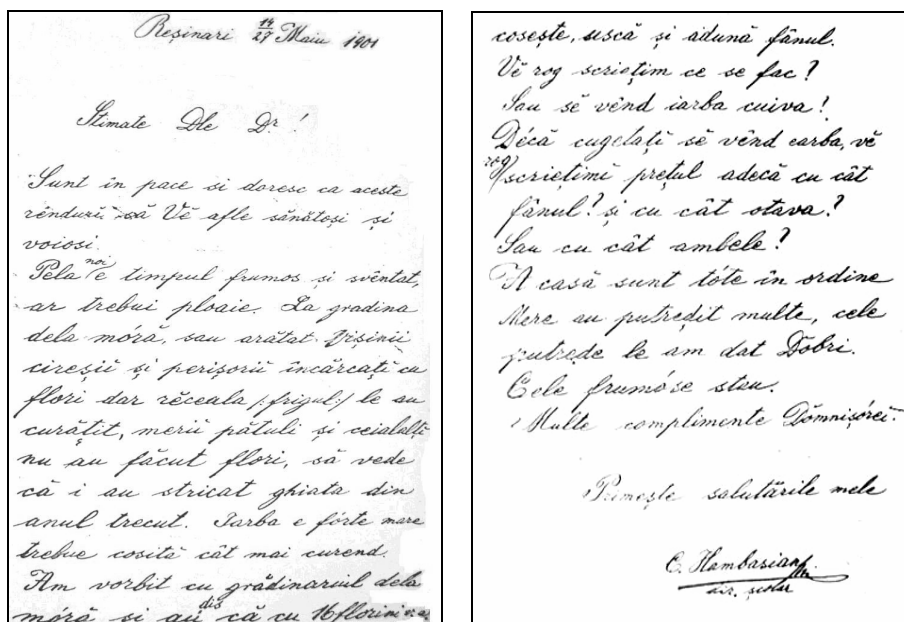


Fig. 17. Letter of Director C. Hămbășan, Rășinari, May 14/27, 1901,
(Academy Library, Cluj-Napoca, Emil Pop found).

“Rășinari, May 14/27, 1901

Dear Dr.!

I am peacefully and I wish that those rows would find you in good health and happiness. Here the time is nice and dry, a raind would be very necessary. In the yard from the mill the cherries, sweetcherries and peaches are full of flowers, but the cold time destroyed them, the other trees have no flowers, because of the ice from last year. The grass is high and must be cut as soon as possible. I talked with

the gardner from the mill and he told met hat with 16 fl. he could cut, dry and collect the hay. Please write me what to do. Or to sell the hay to anyone? If you want to sell the hay please write me which would be the price? And how much the after grass? Or how much both of them? Everything is all right at home. A lot of apples were decayed, I gave it to Dobra. The best of them are standing.

Many compliments to Miss.

*Please receive my greetings,
C. Hămbășan, school director”.*

We finished the chapter of Mitrea’s correspondence with two postcards received by Vasile Alexandrescu Urechia from Batavia in October 21, 1884 and from Salatiga in January 1, 1890. Both of them are from the Romanian Academy, V. A. Urechia found.

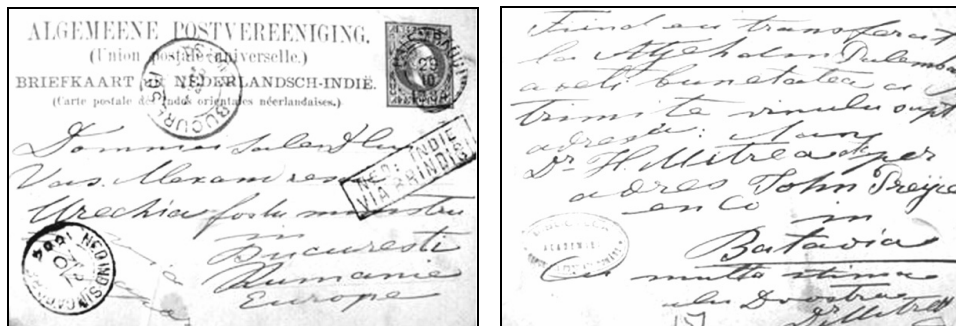


Fig. 18. Postcard of Dr. Hilarius Mitrea to V. A. Urechia, Batavia, October 21, 1884 (Academy Library, Bucharest, found V. A. Urechia).

“To His Mr. V. A. Urechia, ex Minister, in Bucharest, Romania, Europe Being transfered to Atjeh from Palembang, have the kindness to send the wine to the address: Dr. Hilarius Mitrea, per adresa John Preijce en Co. In Batavia, With highly esteem of yours, Dr. Mitrea”.

“To His Mr. V. A. Urechia, ex Minister, senator, in Bucharest, Romania, Salatiga (Java) January 1, 1890, p. f. (?) Dr. Mitrea”.

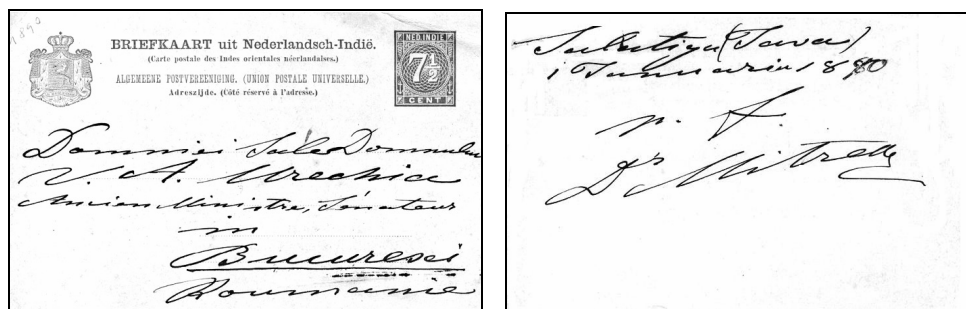


Fig. 19. Postcard of Dr. Hilarius Mitrea to V. A. Urechia, Salatiga, January 1, 1890 (Academy Library, Bucharest, found V. A. Urechia).

Within the documents received from Helen Kämpf-Mitrea, exists the act of buying the properties of his family from Răşinari from his father, Bucur Mitrea, who was very ill, in November 7, 1881.

Contract

Which was established between Mitrea Bucur from Răşinari as seller and Dr. Hilarius Mitrea from Răşinari as buyer, as follows:

I. Mitrea Bucur -

1. He sells for ever to Dr. Hilarius Mitrea the imobiliary property place on the perimetry of Răşinari of upper mentioned person, the stone house and the yard from No. 344, wooden house, No. 345, the hay and the yard from Dricul IV ? beside the mill with the whole living things from ? No. prot. fund. 351 A x No. ord. 1.2.3. May top. 599/1 599/2 600.3977.3989, 3994, 3995 with ... 10 fl. os cl.v.a. (?) for the price of ? stipulated for all by one thousand six hundred for. , this value of whose reception is proved by this contract.

2. I received upon me the eviction (?) regarding the property and the possession of the described property in full property and possession of the described property in full property and possession of the buyer and is free of any public and private obligations.

3. I disavow of the right to destroy of this contract for shortening of more than half of property.

4. I give to the buyer the right that without my contract could certify on his own this contract for the right of property and put it on his name in the register of estate.

II. Dr. Hilarius Mitrea buys the immobile part described under no. 1. And deposited the price of purchasing of 1600 fl. cr. v. a.

III. Both parts agree that contract payload and tax for ownership should be covered by the customer.

IV. Seller reserves the right on life interest and housing for this and whose annual value is 20 fl. cr. v. a.

For documentation we signed this contract in face of witnesses that we specially invited for that.

Răşinari, November 7 1881

*m.p. Bucur Mitrea
i.e. Bucur Mitrea*

*In our presenceseller
m.p. Aleman Dăncăşiu
m.p. Nicolau Tronca, witnesses*

Through Maniu Vidrighin

*m.p. Hilarius Mitrea
buyer
Notary Zagony Gabor
Nagy-Szezen*

Statement

My son Dr. Ilarius Mitrea taken the obligation of sustaining me all my life, I give to him:

I. The right of life interest for the reality from the land book Rășinari No. 2231A + No. Ord. 1 No top 4601, 4602 having 3 yokes 1500^{oo} and 9 yokes 1590^{oo}, rezerved and registred through the resolution of royal court from Sibiu 28/1 1875 No. 37/875.

II. The right for life interest for the reality from the land book Rășinari No. 2570 A + No. ord. No. top 5271 having 1 yoke. 1145^{oo} in his property registredv on my name through the resolution of royal court given on 1/8 1881 No. 10619/881 and I give mandate to register the right of life interest that I gave him on register book from Rășinari with No. 2231 A + No. ord. 1 No. top 4601, 4602 and the register book Rășinari No. 2570 + No. ord. 1 No. top 5271 based on this statement that was read to me, translated and I signed with my own hand with that remark:

III. that we give him the righ of life interest to the realities from the register book No. 351 A + No. ord. 1.2.3. No. top 599/1, 599/2, 600.3977.3989 3994 and 3995 reserved through the buying contract 7/11 1881 and mentioned at point

IV. of above mentioned contract, giving also the right this life interest in the register book of Rășinari No. 351 A+No. ord. 1.2. and 3. – As a proof are given the signatures of mine and of two witnesses called for this purpose.

Rășinari November 16, 1881

m. p. Nicolae Tronca
witness
m. p. Maniu Vidrighin
witness

m.p. Bucur Mitrea (in Kirilic)
id est Bucur Mitrea

Zagoni Gabor
Notary Nagy-Szegen

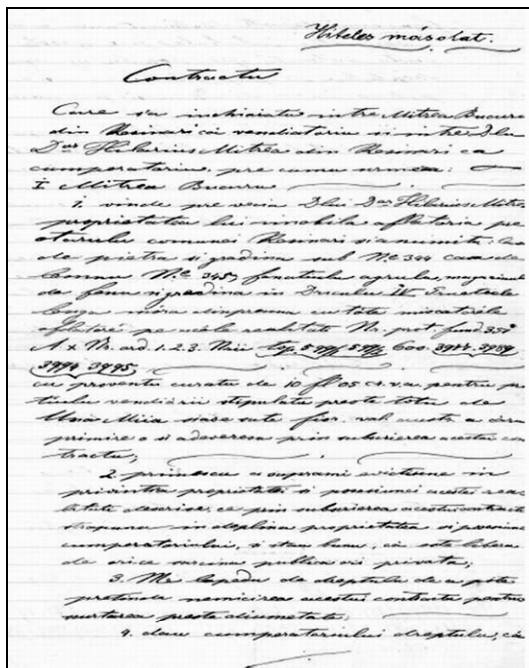


Fig. 20. Contract of selling the properties of Bucur Mitrea from Rășinari, to dr. Hilarius Mitrea, Rășinari, November 7, 1881 p. 1–3 (Personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea).

In the archives from “Grigore Antipa” Museum there also several books of payment (afrekening-boekje in Dutch) from different years, others are in personal archives of first author. Those from Museum’s archive are dated July-December 1872, from Bandjermasin, January-December 1873 to January-December 1874 (inv. no. 1088 A), from January-December 1875 to January-October 1876, from Bandjermasin (Borneo) (inv. no. 1089 A), November-December 1876 to February 1877, from Atjeh campaign (inv. no. 1090 A), March-December 1878 to January-December 1879, from Pelantoengan (Sumatra) (inv. no. 1091 A), January-December 1880 (inv. no. 1092 A), January-December 1885 to January-March 1886, from Atjeh (inv. no. 1093 A), from Pelantoengan 1885-1886 (inv. 1893 A), from Atjeh, July-December 1890, January-December 1891, January-October 1892, January-May 1893, from Salatiga. No. 1094 A) for June, July, August 1893 (inv. no. 1095 A).

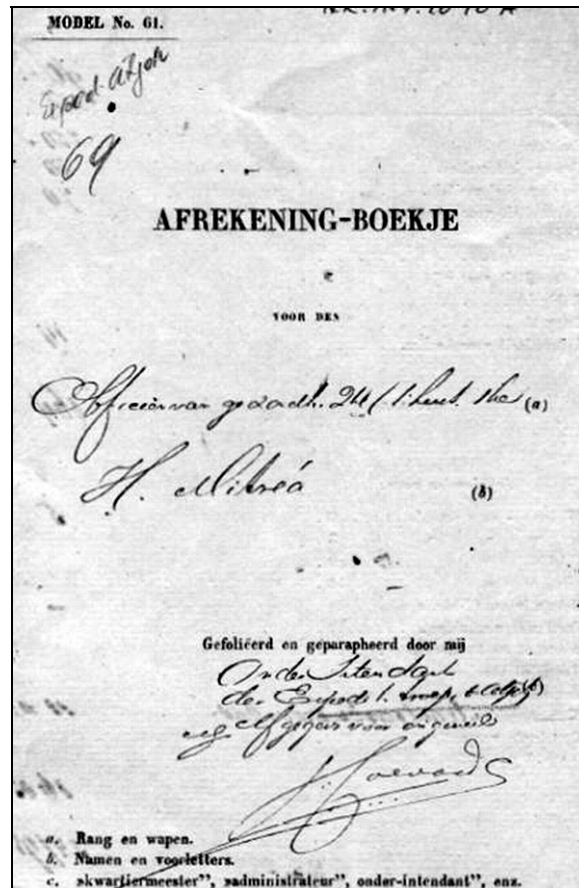


Fig. 22. Afrekening-boekje 1876-1877 of officer for health, lieutenant of 2nd class H. Mitrea, (Archive of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History)

Book of payment

For the

Army surgeon 2nd class, lieutenant 1st

H. Mitrea

Cover

Sub Intendant of the Expeditionary Forces in Atjeh (Aceh)

Handed over as an original (= original copy)

Signature ???Koevoets??

- a. Rank and weapon (infantry f.e.).
- b. Name and initials.
- c. Quarter Master, administrator, sub intendant, etc.

Page 2

From left to right: Nov 1876, Dec 1876 and then until Oct 1877.

1. Salary Fl (guilders) 250 etc.
 2. Quarter Master Indemnity (foods and alike) 30 etc.
 3. Rent for the house indemnity
 4. Writing materials indemnity (reminder for October = rappel etc.)
 5. Gratifications / allowances
 6. Foods etc allowances
 7. Indemnity because of wine
 8. Table money (no idea about what this is for)
 9. Allowance: daily pay
 10. Coolies indemnity
- Total

Page 3

Withholding (pay deduction)

1. nrs (art. = sections) 6, 8, 9, 14 Widows and orphans' benefit fund
2. Delegation (deputation) in Dutch East-India (With pen.) (Nederland has been scratched out.) Fl 120 etc.
3. Private debts (This has been scratched out.) With pen: pre-received medical necessities.
4. Prepaid salary
5. Pre-payment for a horse
6. Remonte horses (See below)
7. Verpleeggelden (scratched out) With pen: too much (vivres) food money.
8. General daily orders 1875 (and near 2.80 same thing 1876)

Total

Paid back (to Mitrea) 410 – 125

Page 4

Nov 1877 etc. Febr 1878 included

1. Salary (250 etc.)
2. Quartermaster indemnity (30 etc.)
3. Rent for the house indemnity (!!! Must be 100, wrong high!! See page 2.)
4. Writing materials indemnity
5. Gratifications (Toeslagen in Dutch)
6. Foods allowancies
7. Wine indemnity
8. Table money
9. Daily pay allowance
10. Coolie indemnity

Total (281 etc.)

Paid to dr Mitrea (276 etc.)

Withholding (pay deduction)

1. nrs (art. = sections) 6, 8, 9, 14 Widows and orphans' benefit fund (500 etc.)
 2. Delegation (deputation) in Dutch East-India (With pen.) (Nederland has been scratched out.)
 3. Private debts (This has been scratched out.) With pen: pre-received medical necessities (fl 2,34)
 4. Prepaid salary
 5. Pre-payment for a horse
 6. Remonte horses (See below)
 7. Verpleeggelden (cratched out) With pen: too much (vivres) food money.
 8. General daily orders 1875 (and near 2.80 same thing 1876)
- Total (500 etc.)

Page 5

(Rekening etc.) Account because of General daily orders 1875

Date Specifications Debit Credit (Left and right for an administrator)

1876

Dec 31 Liabilities Fl 3,81

“ Amount withheld Fl 3,81

Quitte (=balance) 3,81 3,81

Van Januari 1876 tot 1877				Maand April 1876								
	1876	1876	1877	17	17	21	30	31	Opzins	1876	1876	1876
Traktement	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
Fourage indemiteit	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Huisuur indemiteit	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Indemiteit voor schrijfbuizen	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Toelagen	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Vierregelden												
Indemiteit voor wijn												
Tafelgeld												
Daggeld												
Indemiteit voor koelies	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
TOTAAL	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470
Ingehouden voor:												
Widow- en wezenfonds art. 6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
" " " " art. 8												
" " " " art. 9												
" " " " art. 14												
Delegatie naar Nederland	120	120	120									
Partitioons-schulden												
voorschot op traktement												
voorschot voor een ripsaad												
Remonte paarden												
Verpleeggeld												
Opgelagde vergoeding	30	30	30									
TOTAAL	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
TREKKAAL	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255

Fig. 23. Afrekening-boekje 1876-1877 of officer for health, lieutenant of 2nd class H. Mitrea, pages 2-3 (Archive of "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History).

Van Januari 1876 tot 1877				REKENING WEGENS April 1876			
	1876	1876	1877	Datum	Specificatie der rekeningen en der inhoudingen	schuld	te goed
Traktement	250	250	250				
Fourage indemiteit	50	50	50				
Huisuur indemiteit	100	100	100				
Indemiteit voor schrijfbuizen	100	100	100				
Toelagen	60	60	60				
Vierregelden							
Indemiteit voor wijn							
Tafelgeld							
Daggeld							
Indemiteit voor koelies	30	30	30				
TOTAAL	470	470	470				
Ingehouden voor:							
Widow- en wezenfonds art. 6	5	5	5				
" " " " art. 8							
" " " " art. 9							
" " " " art. 14							
Delegatie naar Nederland	120	120	120				
Partitioons-schulden							
voorschot op traktement							
voorschot voor een ripsaad							
Remonte paarden							
Verpleeggeld							
Opgelagde vergoeding	30	30	30				
TOTAAL	125	125	125				
TREKKAAL	255	255	255				

Fig. 24. Afrekening-boekje 1876-1877 of officer for health, lieutenant of 2nd class H. Mitrea, pages 4-5 (Archive of "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History).

Data on Panglima Tibang, photographed by Mitrea, collected by Dirk Teeuwen.

Teuku Panglima Maharaja Tibang Muhammad, because of his good services and his ingenuity, was appointed harbor-master near Kota Radja (=Banda Aceh) by (Acenese) Sultan Mahmud Syah. Prior to the outbreak of the war with the Dutch in Aceh (1873), he was dispatched to (Dutch) Riau Islands (near Singapore) to negotiate with the Dutch.

On his way back to Aceh he stopped in Singapore. There, he visited the American and Italian consulates to seek aid to resist the Dutch. This was the reason for the Dutch to start the war against Aceh. Later he joined the Dutch.

And finally, the death certificate of Mitrea, signed by Father dr. Mel. Apostolopoulos from the “Saint Trinity” Greek Church (Orthodox one) from Vienna: “Saint Trinity” Greek-Oriental Priest Institute from Vienna

Death certificate

In conformity with the “Register of death” of the Church, no. 5, position 133:

It’s confirmed that in year 1904, on January 31 passed away and on February 2 was burried after a Greek-Oriental ceremony led by Father Dr. Mel. Apostolopoulos.

Place of death – Alserstrasse, in Vienna.

Name, religion, year of birth of deceased: Dr. Hilarius Mitrea, born in Rășinari, Transylvania in 1842, physician – army officer , celibatarian, of Greek-Oriental religion (Orthodox).

Cause of death: heart attack. Place of burrial: Central Cemetery from Vienna.

This document was signed and flourished in Vienna, on February 6, 1904, by Dr. Mel. Apostolopoulos.

On back of document: Mr. Gaber – Notary of Royal Court – Hauptstr. (Hauptstrasse), 56”.



Fig. 25. Dr. Hilarius Mitrea, last photo, January 18, 1895. (photo Rudolf Krziwanek, Wien und Ischl.) (Archive of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History).

Griechisch-orientalisches Pfarramt
"zur heiligen Dreifaltigkeit" in Wien.

Todten-Schein.

Aus dem pfarrlichen Sterbe-Buch Nr. V. Ist 133
wird hiermit amtlich besaget, daß im Jahre:

Kaisersrad 1867 hinterl. 1867 am 6. Februar an Dr. Hilarius Mitrea, Wiener
gestorben, und am 6. Februar 1867 von dem Unterfertigten Pater Dr. Mel. Spustalpaub
nach griechisch-orientalischem Ritus zur Erde beisetzt worden ist.

Ort des Sterbens	Name des Gestorbenen, Religion, Alter, Charakter, allenfalls des Ehegatten, Vaters	Todesart	Ort des Begräbnisses	Anmerkung
Wien IX B. Allerhaus Nr. 4.	Dr. Hilarius Mitrea Habhaft, geb. in Bosnien - Siebenbrunn, im J. 1842 - ledig, bruchkrank, con- fession.	Herrschwäche	Wiener Cen- tral-Friedhof	

Urkund dessen ist des Gesetigten eigenhändige Unterschrift und Pfarrsiegel
Wien, am 6. Februar 1904 Dr. Mel. Spustalpaub

Fig. 26. Death certificate of Dr. Hilarius Mitrea
(Personal archive of Alexandru Marinescu, donated by Helen Kämpf-Mitrea).

The publication of this death certificate contradicts the speculation made by different authors, Pop (1968, 1994) (which just used the remains of his descendents from Romania, without any official document), Stavarache (2010) (based on affirmation made by Pop) that Mitrea committed suicide with chloroform and that why he was buried in a common grave from Central Cemetery from Vienna. On the act of Mitrea's burrial, published for the first time by Pop in 1968, is mentioned the precise place from the cemetery: group 24a, place no. 224, so, not a common grave.



Te Rotterdam
liggen in lading
NAAR
BATAVIA,
voor PASSAGIERS en
GOEDEREN
het Snelzeilend Campagne,
Barkschip

RESIDENT VAN SON,
Kapt. J. W. BUTNER.
Vertrekt 25 Julij.

Het Snelzeilend Fregatschip
DOELWIJK, Kapt. L. HOEFMAN,
Vertrekt 25 Augustus.

Het Snelzeilend Campagne Fregatschip
Oudekerk aan den Amstel,
Kapt. K. J. SWART.
Vertrekt 10 September.

Deze schepen voeren getaxamineerde Docters en
melgeverende Koeljen en hebben zeer doelmattige en
ruime Inrigtingen voor den overvoer van Familien.
Adres bij **Wm. RUIJS & ZONEN.** (8235)

Fig. 27. The ship "Doelweijk" with whom Mitrea firstly arrived in Indonesia
(by courtesy of Dirk Teeuwen).

Mrs. Yvonne Lock, granddaughter of Mitrea, nephew of Hilarius Petrus who lives in Great Britain, informed us that when she visited Vienna in searching of Mitrea's grave, Mitrea's bones had been moved in a common grave in 1914.

Acknowledgements

Our deepest thanks to Mr. Reinhardt Kämpf, grandson of Hilarius Petrus Mitrea (Bern, Switzerland), for photos with his grandpa and for the translation of Wattam's letter; to Ms Nicoleta Stanciu (Germany), great-granddaughter of Mary Mitrea Isdrăilă, for translation of all German documents; to Dirk Teeuwen (The Netherlands) for translation of Dutch documents, for information about Panglima Tibang and others; to Mrs. Carmen Atanasiu (Marine Museum, Constanța) and to Gabriel Bănică, for details on maritime terminology.

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9. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/16>.