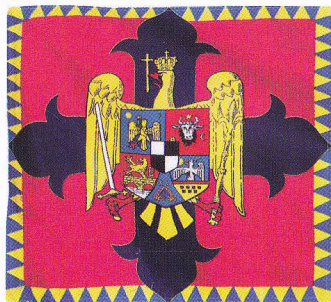


*Romanian Royal Journal*

*2017-2018*

*Prince Radu of Romania*



*I*n the history of the Romanian Royal Family, 2017 and 2018 will remain years of particular significance. Within the space of just two years, and as part of a series of events that have been reshaping the modern face of the Royal Family, the Crown has celebrated the centenary of the Grand Union of Romania, lost both King Michael and Queen Anne, and entered a new era, presided over by Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown.

This short book provides an overview of two years that have brought change, but which have also rested under the sign of tradition and continuity.

The book aims to be a practical guide to the inner workings of the Royal Family. The reader will thereby be able to gain a better understanding of the latest events to capture the attention of Romanians and the world, the position

of the Royal Family in the current political and legislative context, and its relevance in today's world.

I want to mention the precious help that I received in writing this book from Ioan Luca Vlad, honorary private counsellor to Her Majesty, and from Alistair Blyth, a fine connoisseur of both Romanian and English languages. Working with both Maître Vlad and Mr Blyth is always a pleasure.

The Author



On 11 December 2017, six days after the death of King Michael I, a solemn session of Romania's parliament was held. Through its parliament, the Romanian nation morally and politically recognised the first Royal succession since 1940.

Convened in order to pay a tribute to the late King, the session of parliament was presided over by the Speakers of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and was held in the presence of the President of Romania and the Patriarch of the National Orthodox Church. In attendance were the prime minister, ministers, and senators and deputies from both the ruling party and the opposition.

The diplomatic corps, headed by their dean, the Apostolic Nuncio, were also in attendance, as were Romania's former presidents and prime ministers. The Vice-president of the Romanian Academy, the local head of the Roman Catholic Church, and representatives of the Constitutional Court and other

central institutions of state took part in the event.

The session, broadcast live on national television, was a powerful symbol of national unity. The Custodian of the Crown addressed Parliament in the following words:




*Mr President of Romania,  
Speakers of the Senate and the Chamber,  
Prime Minister,  
Your Beatitude, Your Eminence,  
Senators and Deputies,  
Your Excellencies,*

*The solemnity in which we here take part is held in order to pay tribute to our King, so loved by the Romanian people and admired by the whole world. But the meaning of today's distinguished assembly has deep roots in one hundred and fifty years of modern history, a history full of tragic but also uplifting moments.*

*I have lost a parent, and so too has the entire nation. In these difficult moments, we are united in our suffering.*

*The goodness and forgiveness of my father vanquished all the evils of the last century. His wisdom ensured our country's continuity in times of tragedy and unbearable suffering last century. Even when our King was far away from his country, Romanians saw him as a beacon. For almost a century, King Michael was part of the fabric of Romanian nationhood.*

*A new time is beginning for the Royal House. With the same values and principles as my father, I will continue to serve Romania's fundamental interests. Like King Michael, I will devote my work to Romanians all over the world.*





*Alongside the fundamental institutions of the State, the Crown will continue to do everything in its power to further the country's progress in the European Union and NATO. The King always believed it was our duty to be an integral part of such endeavours.*

*Besides our actions to strengthen Romanian communities and our charitable projects, my Family and I will continue, alongside the institutions of state, to promote the authentic image and interests of Romania globally.*

*The countries of the world need gain a better knowledge of what Romania has achieved in the last one hundred and fifty years as a modern state, what we have managed to build in the century that has passed since the Great Union, and what we have accomplished since the fall of communism. Looking back, we can be proud of the progress of our nation.*

*In my parents' heart there was always a "tomorrow". Thinking of that "tomorrow", I am grateful to you for today.*

*So help us God!*

At the end of the solemn session,  
the Royal Anthem was intoned.





*F*ive days later, the burial of King Michael took place, at the end of four days of national mourning. Those who witnessed the event will never forget it. Many of our co-nationals declared that this was their Romania. It was an uplifting moment, a unique page in our

contemporary history. A general feeling of pride, love, respect and admiration united all Romanians and greatly struck foreigners. There was much sadness and sorrow, but the extraordinary emotion and outpouring of love were far stronger than anything else.









Three years ago, Her Majesty Margareta was elected the President of the Romanian Red Cross. Patronised by Queen Elisabeth of Romania from 1876, and subsequently chaired by Queen Marie and then Queen Helen, the Red Cross restored its royal tradition by choosing its president from amongst the Royal Family. Her

Majesty's work with the Red Cross and Red Crescent includes international engagements, such as her recent visits to Sweden, Jordan and Switzerland, chairing meetings of the Red Cross Board, National Committee and National Assembly in Bucharest, and visits to the organisation's branches all over Romania.



