

REDISCOVERING DIMITRIE TUȘINSCHI, „ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN PUBLIC FIGURES IN BUKOVINA” OF THE INTERWAR ERA

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Abstract: *Dimitrie Tușinski (*10 May 1870), first president of the Cernăuți Court of Appeal in the 1920s and 30s, held a key position during the incorporations of Bukovina into Greater Romania after World War I (WWI). He was considered „one of the best-known public figures in Bukovina”, his life being deeply interwoven with the region’s Romanian history and social circles. Despite many accolades, including major Romanian awards and honorary citizenship of various towns, Tușinski is hardly known today. To date, no thorough research has been devoted specifically to his life. This paper, for the first time, presents a full overview of Tușinski’s biography. As the author is his great-grandson, anecdotes recounted within the family are added where appropriate. As a child in Suceava, Dimitrie Tușinski met Eminescu. As a student of law in Cernăuți, he became a member of the Junimea academic society and received accolades as first prosecutor in Austrian Cernăuți before WWI. As a captain in the reserve, Tușinski became part of the Austrian-Hungarian military secret service (Nachrichtendienst) in Cernăuți from 1917–1918, and was later appointed prosecutor general of the Romanian Curtea de Apel upon its creation in 1919. From 1918–1938, Austrian law largely still applied in Bukovina. The legal journal Pagini Juridice, which Tușinski founded, played an important part in analyzing and discussing Bukovina’s legal status. The unification of Bukovina’s legal system with the Romanian one was finalized shortly after he had to retire in 1938. When Northern Bukovina got annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, Tușinski and his wife Leontine escaped, together with many ethnic Germans and their families, by being briefly relocated to German-run Lager 98 Mittelsteine. As they did not wish to settle in Germany, the couple left for Suceava in 1941. Tușinski’s post-WWII fate and date of death remain unknown and require further research.*

Keywords Cernăuți; Court of Appeal; Curtea de Apel Cernăuți; Demeter von Tuschinski; interwar justice; biography.

Introduction

Dr. Dimitrie C. Tușinski (Austrian spelling until 1918: Dr. Demeter Ritter von Tuschinski), born on 10 May 1870 in Suceava¹, was the first president of the Cernăuți Court of Appeal (*Curtea de Apel Cernăuți*) from 1926 to 1938, during which period he was „at the head of the Bukovina judiciary”² and the highest-ranking civil servant

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¹ Rudolf Busch, *Dr. Dimitrie von Tușinski – Worte des Abschiedes anlässlich des Ruhestandes*, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 10 April 1938, p. 4.

² *Ibidem*.

in Cernăuți³. His life was interwoven with Bukovina history: As a child, Tușinschi encountered Mihai Eminescu in Suceava. During World War I (WWI), he served as an officer at *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz*, an Austrian military intelligence unit. After the war, during the 1920s and 30s, he was awarded honorary citizenship of several towns in Bukovina. He was credited as founder of „Pagini Juridice”, a Romanian legal journal that, among various topics, from 1932 documented and discussed the 20-year long process of integrating Bukovina into the Romanian legal system. Additionally, Tușinschi, together with his wife Leontine, supported many charitable endeavours in Bukovina. The couple finally had to relocate from Cernăuți after the Soviet annexation in 1940, and Dimitrie Tușinschi lived his last days in Socialist Romania. During his career, he received major Romanian and Austrian awards, including the Grand Officer's class of the Romanian Order of the Crown (*Mare Ofițer: Ordinul Coroana României*). „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” called him a „guarantor of the stability of justice in Bucovina”⁴, and „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost” in 1932 even went so far to describe him as „one of the best-known public figures in Bukovina”⁵. So far, I have located around 2000 Romanian and Austrian pre-1940 press articles mentioning Dimitrie Tușinschi by name: His speeches and essays were printed, sometimes covering entire pages, his presence at events was noted and he was portrayed numerous times⁶, including on newspapers' title pages⁷. Even events such as holidays⁸, an accident⁹ or family gatherings¹⁰ are documented in press reports. In the interwar period, the Courts of Appeal in the newly acquired Romanian territories played a particularly prominent role in transforming the previous local to the now-current national legislation¹¹. In Bukovina, this process of legal unification was completed only in autumn of 1938¹².

³ 40 jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Primpräsidenten Dr. v. Tușinschi, „Der Tag”, 31 July 1932, p. 2.

⁴ Die Auszeichnung des Oberlandesgerichtspräsidenten Dr. v. Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 8 November 1936, p. 3.

⁵ 40 Jahre im Dienste der Gerechtigkeit, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 31 July 1932, p. 4.

⁶ For example: Oskar Becker, Dr. Dimitrie Ritter von Tușinschi - ein Charakterbild, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 13 April 1938, p. 3.

⁷ For example: Dr. Dimitrie Tușinschi, „Glasul Bucovinei”, 31 July 1932, p. 1, or: Un înalt demnitar: Dr. Dimitrie de Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 10 April 1938, p. 1–2, or: Oberlandesgerichtspräsident von Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1925, p. 1.

⁸ There are many examples, like: Personalnachricht, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 18 August 1927, p. 2.

⁹ Unfall des Primpräsidenten Dr. von Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 October 1929, p. 5. In the issue from 8 October, there is an account on p. 5 in which von Tușinschi describes the accident himself.

¹⁰ Dienstjubiläum, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 12 August 1922, p. 2.

¹¹ Mircea Duțu, Unificarea Juridică și Experiențele Sale, „Studii și Cercetări Juridice”, Anul 7 (63), No. 3, July–September 2018, p. 189–255, here: p. 189 [infra: *Unificarea juridică ...*]. The section about the Cernăuți Court of Appeal also appears in: Mircea Duțu, *Un secol de stat unitar și drept național (1918–2018). Perspective istorice cultural-științifice*, București, Edit. Academiei Române, Edit. Universul Juridic, 2018 [infra: *Un secol de stat unitar ...*].

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 219, 221.

Thus, Tușinschi held a key position during the incorporations of the new regions into Greater Romania post 1918.

Despite his obvious prominence before 1940, Dimitrie Tușinschi is hardly known today. So far, to my knowledge, there has been no published research about his life. Before I did initial research and created Wikipedia pages about Dimitrie Tușinschi, his son Constantin and the journal „Pagini Juridice” in 2024 (in addition to uploading photos on Wikimedia commons), little information about either was readily available. The post-war political climate in Romania led to a suppression of information concerning Northern Bukovina before World War II (WWII). Dimitrie, who allegedly spent his last years in Transylvania, quickly faded into obscurity as Northern Bukovina was no longer part of Romania. So far, no post-1945 press articles mentioning him have been located, and although Tușinschi lived at least until 1950, even his date of death is presently unknown¹³. In 2018, the contributions of Dimitrie Tușinschi, the Cernăuți Court of Appeal and the journal „Pagini Juridice” to the unification of the local with the Romanian legal system in Bukovina were analysed by Mircea Duțu¹⁴. Tușinschi’s biography, though, remains elusive. In the Junimea archive in Iași, a photo of Tușinschi and a very brief, basic biography until the mid-1920s are found, which were published in 2015¹⁵. A brief text that only addresses Tușinschi’s civilian career until the late 1920s on less than a page is found in Irimescu’s 2013 encyclopaedia, which appears to be based on the information from the Junimea archive in Iași¹⁶. For example, Dimitrie Tușinschi’s military service at *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz* for which he received an Austrian silver *Signum Laudis* medal¹⁷, has – to my knowledge – never been publicly discussed or even mentioned before. This article offers, for the first time, a thorough overview of Dimitrie Tușinschi’s biography. I am his great-grandson and only currently living descendant. In my childhood, I often heard stories about Dimitrie from my late father Paul Tușinschi (13 August 1945 – 24 August 2009). As a child, Paul – Dimitrie’s grandson – had met Dimitrie, but was under the mistaken belief that most sources had been destroyed in WWII. During the past years, it has become one of my main research tasks to uncover Dimitrie Tușinschi’s life and connection to Bukovina society, which I will address in my dissertation at University of Innsbruck.

Much of the family archive was lost when fleeing from Cernăuți twice in WWII, though Constantin Tușinschi, Dimitrie’s son living in Sighișoara during

¹³ See below. Photo in the family archive depicting Dimitrie from 14 August 1950.

¹⁴ Mircea Duțu, *Unificarea juridică ...*, p. 7–73.

¹⁵ Arcadie Dugan-Opațiș, *Albumul Mare al Societăților Academice „Arboroasa” și „Junimea” din Cernăuți*, Marian Olaru (editor, prefață, note), Arcadie Bodale (editor, prefață, note), Suceava, Edit. Universității „Ștefan Cel Mare”, 2015, p.161–162.

¹⁶ Mircea Irimescu, *Societatea pentru Cultura și Literatură Română în Bucovina (1862–2012)* Vol. II *Voluntariat bucovinean*, Rădăuți, Edit. Septentrion, 2013, p. 605. His year of graduation is mis-typed there.

¹⁷ Abwehroffizier des Heeresfrontkommandos FM. Baron Kövess in Czernowitz, *Belohnungsantrag*, AT-ÖStA, OBA 257027, fol. 72.

Socialist rule, managed to preserve a few pre-1940 family documents, photos and small keepsakes. For this article, beside researching the major press of Bukovina, archival research in Vienna, Bucharest and Cernăuți proved fruitful: A striking archival discovery were numerous, as of 2025 apparently previously unresearched, files created in the operation of *Abwehrstelle Czernowitz* in 1917/18.

So far, the reviewed sources – which include the major German- and Romanian-language newspapers of pre- and post-WWI Bukovina – contain practically only positive assessments of Tușinschi. Further research in smaller publications and more obscure sources could, potentially, uncover more controversial assessments. The typical attitude found in major Bukovina press toward Dimitrie Tușinschi is seen in various quotes: He is described as „one of the most striking personalities” in the city of Cernăuți, enjoying „the greatest respect everywhere”¹⁸. He was said to enjoy „respect and sympathy” of the general public and to show „strong feeling for the needs of the population”¹⁹. The latter point was repeated in various articles, saying that he had an understanding of the needs of the various nationalities in Bukovina²⁰, and that he „treated all nationalities in Bukovina equally”²¹. According to major press, he considered „respect for human dignity to be a fundamental principle in legal life”²², and he allegedly had no desire to advance his career by getting particularly harsh sentences for defendants when he was a prosecutor²³. Tușinschi was, according to a 1909 report, „not interfering in politics for reasons of principle”²⁴ and Dr. Tarnavski, first prosecutor in 1925, stated that Tușinschi was „objective” and not moved by „influences from left or right”²⁵. One of the few accounts that could be interpreted somewhat controversial comes from Meier Teich, who recalls how Tușinschi, during an exam around 1919/20, remarked there were no laws to charge students who tried insulting Jewish citizens by referring to them as „gypsies”, which Teich then likens to developments in Western Germany of the early 1970s. Though, Teich also states that Tușinschi was „always regarded as extremely liberal and tolerant”²⁶. Tușinschi’s relations with the Jewish population were apparently very good, as the German-language press in Bukovina remarked at several occasions well into the 1930s. In 1932, at a Jewish prayer house in Cernăuți, prayers were held for Tușinschi and his wife Leontine. According to „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, such a Jewish prayer for a person of another confession was normally only done for „heads of state, high

¹⁸ 40 jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Prim-Präsidenten Dr. v. Tușinschi, „Der Tag”, 31 July 1932, p. 2.

¹⁹ Die Auszeichnung des Oberlandesgerichtspräsidenten Dr. v. Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 8 November 1936, p. 3.

²⁰ Oberlandesgerichtspräsident Dr. v. Tușinschi – Zum 10-jährigen Dienstjubiläum, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 October 1935, p. 3.

²¹ 40 Jahre im Dienste der Gerechtigkeit, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 31 July 1932, p. 4.

²² Bitte an den Primpräsidenten des Obergerichts, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 2 July 1926, p. 2.

²³ Obergerichtspräsident von Tușinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1925, p. 1.

²⁴ Allerlei vergossenes Blut, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 22 September 1909, p. 4.

²⁵ Ein Festbankett der Staatsanwälte, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 22 October 1925, p. 4.

²⁶ Meier Teich, Denn Recht muss doch Recht bleiben, „Die Stimme”, 01/1971, p. 5.

dignitaries and philanthropists”, and the „rare honour proves the high respect, esteem and love” which Tușinschi received from „the Jewish population because of his years-long, humane activities”²⁷. For example, in September 1934, Tușinschi was asked to postpone trials of Jewish parties that were scheduled for a Jewish holiday. As a result, he arranged for trials involving only Jewish litigants in Bukovina not to be held during Jewish holidays²⁸. Tușinschi was also a guest at the inauguration of the maternity centre for poor Jewish women in Cernăuți in 1933²⁹. In 1938, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” emphasized that Tușinschi was held in high esteem by both the Christian and Jewish population, and positively mentioned his manners („Umgangsformen”), as well³⁰.

Biography

Dimitrie Tușinschi was born on 10 May 1870 in Suceava as the only child of orthodox priest Casian Tușinschi (26 February 1839 – 2 July 1898) and his wife Iulia (5 June 1853 – March 1923)³¹. In 1938, the Tușinschi family is described as an „old and respected family of *Rezeschen* from Mihalcea”³². *Rezesch* is a term that translates to „free farmers”.³³ Mareș mentions that little information is available about Casian Tușinschi, and he lists dates of birth and death as unknown³⁴. However, it is possible to reconstruct the family history. A well-sourced account is preserved at the Austrian State Archive, compiled by Dimitrie Tușinschi in 1913 for recognition of the family’s aristocratic title: The Tușinschi family emigrated to Northern Bukovina from Warsaw by the end of the 18th century, where one of Dimitrie’s ancestors – Johann Tuszynski – held the title *Servitoratus Regius* at the court of Stanislaus August II. The name was originally spelled „Tuszynski”, and was Germanized into „Tuschinski” in Bukovina. Johann’s brother Peter Nikolajew Tuszynski (*1741) emigrated to Mihalcea, where he bought land, was referred to as a „boyar” (nobility of Moldavia and Wallachia) and passed away on 26 March 1802³⁵.

There’s no indication that the family was influenced by the Romanian culture before they settled in Mihalcea. Casian Tușinschi, Dimitrie’s father, was born there

²⁷ *Eine seltene Ehrung für Primpräsident Dr. von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 4 August 1932, p. 3.

²⁸ *Die jüdischen Feiertage im Gericht*, „Der Tag”, 20 September 1934, p. 3.

²⁹ *Doppelfeier des Vereins zur Unterstützung armer jüdischer Wöchnerinnen*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 17 December 1933, p. 15.

³⁰ *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

³¹ AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7. Concerning Iulia Tușinschi’s date of death: *Todesfall – Frau Iulia von Tuschinski*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 29 March 1923, p. 2.

³² *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

³³ Paul Hunfaly, *Die Rumänen und ihre Ansprüche*, Wien und Teschen, Verlag von Karl Prochaska, 1883, p. 168.

³⁴ Ion Mareș, *Biserica Sfântul Nicolae din Suceava*, Suceava, Edit. Karl A. Romstorfer, 2011, p. 109–110.

³⁵ AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

in house CN. 42³⁶. Casian's mother Safta Tușinschi was born *Ritter von Konstantinowicz-Grecul*³⁷. Casian's biography before he became a priest at *Sfântul Nicolae* church in Suceava remains a matter for future articles. He was eventually ordained as an orthodox priest in 1869, became exarch in 1896, protopresbyter (*protopopresbiterul*) in 1898 and additionally performed as a prison chaplain³⁸. Dimitrie's mother Iulia was born Popovici and descended from a prominent family of orthodox priests of Northern Bukovina, where, according to a 1907 article, in the preceding 200 years, the priestly ordination had been passed from father to son³⁹.

As a pupil, Dimitrie Tușinschi lived as a tenant in the house of Vasile Bumbac in Suceava⁴⁰. Since childhood, I heard an anecdote of Mihai Eminescu visiting when Dimitrie was a child. According to the anecdote, Dimitrie had to go to a different room when Eminescu visited, who, by one or both of Dimitrie's parents, was referred to as „the nervous young gentleman who can't handle children around him well” („Der nervöse junge Herr, der Kinder nicht verträgt”)⁴¹. In a 1940 interview, Dimitrie Tușinschi confirmed that when he was a pupil, Eminescu repeatably visited the Bumbac household, and clearly felt very comfortable there⁴². Morariu describes gatherings at the Bumbac household, without mentioning Tușinschi. He recalls how people were drinking wine as various guests came and went⁴³. Dimitrie grew up bilingual and was fluent in German and Romanian⁴⁴. He attended the *Griechisch-Orientalische Ober-Gymnasium* in Suceava from 1880⁴⁵ to 1887. When graduating, he named „laws” as his planned field of studies⁴⁶. During that time, Bumbac taught classical languages and Romanian at the school⁴⁷. A joking letter published in the journal „An der schönen blauen Donau” from 1887 makes it possible to form assumptions about Tușinschi's circle of friends. It is signed by Dimitrie and five other

³⁶ *Ibidem*, particularly letter from 22 March 1917.

³⁷ *Ibidem*.

³⁸ *Todesfälle*, „Bukowinaer Post”, 5. July 1898, p. 2.

³⁹ *Todesfall*, „Czernowitzer Tagblatt”, 16 July 1907, p. 4.

⁴⁰ *Eminescu la Vasile Bumbac*, „Buletinul Mihai Eminescu”, 1940, p. 54–55. The article claims Constantin Tușinschi told this about his childhood, but based on the context, it is clear that Dimitrie spoke with the author and the latter mixed up the first name of father and son.

⁴¹ Told to my parents in the 1970s by Dimitrie's son Constantin. All anecdotes that he told which were verifiable with other sources turned out to be accurate.

⁴² *Eminescu la Vasile Bumbac*, „Buletinul Mihai Eminescu”, 1940, p. 54–55.

⁴³ Victor Morariu, *Vasile Bumbac (1837-1918), pagina din istoria literaturii bucovinene*, Cernăuți, Tiparul Glasul Bucovinei, 1940, p. 30.

⁴⁴ For example, Dimitrie Tușinschi's *Qualifikationslisten* as an Austrian-Hungarian officer in the reserves, held at the Austrian State Archives, always mention that he was fluent in speaking and writing German and Romanian.

⁴⁵ *Programm des gr.-or. Ober-Gymnasiums in Suczawa*, printed in Cernăuți, editions 1880–1887.

⁴⁶ *Primpräsident Dr. Dimitrie von Tușinschi – zu seinem 40-jährigen Dienstjubiläum*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 31 July 1932, p. 3.

⁴⁷ Bumbac appears in *Programm des gr.-or. Ober-Gymnasiums in Suczawa* between 1880–1886.

„Abiturienten aus Suczawa” („highschool graduates from Suceava”)⁴⁸. Among these was Isak Weidenfeld, who later went to Vienna, where he was eventually called Stefan Weidenfeld. He became a dermatologist there and passed away in 1917⁴⁹. The friendship was likely significant on a personal level, as even two decades after Weidenfeld’s passing, he was still explicitly mentioned as a notable friend of Dimitrie’s⁵⁰. Another friend who signed the letter was Orest Baleanu, who studied law and whose legal career in the Austrian-Hungarian period developed in similar paths to Dimitrie’s. Their paths crossed several times, as will be shown below. Additional friends were Dr Moritz Blaukopf, whom Tușinschi called „one of my best and dearest friends since university days”⁵¹, and Michael Sommer, a lawyer from Suceava living in Vienna by the 1910s⁵². In Suceava, Dimitrie’s father Casian alongside Teodor V. Ștefanelli co-founded the „Romanian Club” („Clubul Român”) in early 1887, which was frequented by numerous Romanian intellectuals and artists⁵³. In 1891, for example, Casian Tușinschi was elected the club’s vice-president and Vasile Bumbac was elected president⁵⁴. 1935, in a detailed article, the club was named „the social centre of the Romanian intellectuals in Suceava” since the 1880s⁵⁵. In the late 19th century, Dimitrie’s mother Iulia was active in the Society for Romanian Women in Bukovina⁵⁶.

After graduating school, Dimitrie Tușinschi studied law at the University of Czernowitz⁵⁷. From June 1889⁵⁸ until at least 1891, during his student days, Tușinschi was a member of the local *Kranken- und Unterstützungsverein* (society for supporting sick people)⁵⁹. He additionally became a member of Romanian Junimea academic society in Cernăuți. According to the biographic sketch from the Junimea archive,

⁴⁸ „Abiturient” in *Suczawa*, „An der Schönen Blauen Donau”, Vienna, 1887, no. 2, p. 44. In the letter, they ask to become members of the (tongue-in-cheek) „Anti-Hochwohlgeborenen-Verein”. This (non-existing) club was founded by the magazine as a joke for people who vowed to never use the old-fashioned term „Hochwohlgeboren” to address someone. See: *Die deutsche Brief-Titulatur*, „An der Schönen Blauen Donau”, 1886, vol. 22, p. 660.

⁴⁹ *Professor Dr. Stefan Weidenfeld*, „Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift”, No. 36, 1917, Columns 1557–1560.

⁵⁰ *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁵¹ *Zum Tode des Prodekans Dr. Moritz Blaukopf*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 8 November 1935, p. 3.

⁵² *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁵³ *Ibidem*. Concerning the date, see: *Clubul român din Suceava*, „Tribuna”, 8/20 May 1887, p. 411, and: *Cronică*, „Sămănătorul”, 2 July 1906, p. 538.

⁵⁴ *Clubul român din Suceava*, „Gazeta Bucovinei”, 15/27 December 1891, p. 3.

⁵⁵ Dr. S. Dische, *Erinnerungen an Simion Florea Marian*, „Der Tag”, 17 February 1935, p. 6.

⁵⁶ *Dómnale române din Sucéva*, „Familia”, No. 50/1891, 15 December 1891, p. 598.

⁵⁷ *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁵⁸ *Vereinsnachrichten*, „Bukowinaer Nachrichten”, 16 June 1889, p. 3.

⁵⁹ The last press notices regarding his membership can be found in 1891, for example: *Der Kranken- und Unterstützungsverein an der hiesigen Universität*, „Bukowinaer Rundschau”, 7 June 1891, p. 5–6.

Tușinschi was active from 1886–1890 as president of the revisions committee and as controller („președinte al Comisiei de revizie și de controlor”).⁶⁰ If these dates are accurate, he became a member while still a pupil in Suceava. The first press report mentioning Tușinschi in context of Junimea found so far is from 1890⁶¹. At the society, he encountered Constantin Isopescu-Grecul⁶². Until the latter’s passing in 1938, both often attended the same public events⁶³. When celebrating Tușinschi’s appointment as president of the Cernăuți Court of Appeal, Isopescu-Grecul was seated directly to his left⁶⁴. A card of Isopescu-Grecul, presumably showing support, is found with Tușinschi’s 1913 request for recognition of his Polish aristocratic title⁶⁵.

On 19 December 1890, Tușinschi enlisted in the Austro-Hungarian army as an *Einjährig-Freiwilliger*. He was commissioned (*assentiert*) as a reserve lieutenant in the medical corps (*Sanitätstruppe*), with a service obligation of ten years in the army and two years in the *Landwehr*⁶⁶. This started a decades-long service as reserve officer, as Tușinschi extended the service voluntarily afterward, stating that he wanted to continue as long as his physical abilities allowed⁶⁷. Dimitrie Tușinschi graduated University of Czernowitz as a PhD in laws, his graduation taking place on 17 June 1892 in the aula. His supervisor was Professor Hruza⁶⁸. The search for Tușinschi’s PhD thesis is ongoing⁶⁹. From 1 August 1892, he joined the Suceava District Court as a trainee judge⁷⁰. Two months later, on 1 October 1892, he was presented „for active service” in the military⁷¹. His first Qualification list (*Qualifikationsliste*) compiled in 1893 notes that he spoke and wrote both German and Romanian well; no other languages are mentioned⁷². Since Tușinschi spent time in Suceava while the Romanian Club was active, it seems plausible that he could have frequented those circles. On 1 January 1894, Tușinschi was promoted lieutenant in the reserve of *Sanitätsabteilung Nr. 3*,⁷³ stationed in Suceava⁷⁴. His legal career proceeded in

⁶⁰ Sheet 241 from the Junimea-archive, printed in: Arcadie Dugan-Opațiș, *op. cit.*, 2015, p. 161–162.

⁶¹ *Societatea academică „Junimea” din Cernăuți*, „Tribuna”, 4 April 1890, p. 303.

⁶² A report of both at a gathering: *Societatea academică „Junimea” din Cernăuți*, „Tribuna”, 4 April 1890, p. 303.

⁶³ The earliest currently known press report about a ball they both attended: *Societatea academică „Junimea” din Cernăuți*, „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, 10 January 1901, pp. 2–3.

⁶⁴ *Ein Festbankett der Staatsanwälte*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 22 October 1925, p. 4.

⁶⁵ AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

⁶⁶ AT-OeStA: *Qualifikationsliste Dr. Demeter von Tuschinski*.

⁶⁷ AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7. Concerning Iulia Tușinschi’s date of death: *Todesfall - Frau Julia von Tuschinski*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 29 March 1923, p. 2.

⁶⁸ *Promotion*, „Bukowinaer Nachrichten”, 15 June 1892, p. 2.

⁶⁹ Chernivtsi University library, upon request, performed a search in their holdings and could not locate a copy.

⁷⁰ *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁷¹ AT-OeStA: *Qualifikationsliste Dr. Demeter von Tuschinski*.

⁷² *Ibidem*.

⁷³ *Ibidem*.

⁷⁴ „Verordnungsblatt für das k. u. k. Heer”, No. 52, 23. Dezember 1893, p. 701, 776.

Suceava, and on 17 May 1894, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was appointed *Auskulant* at the Suceava District Court⁷⁵. On 5 June 1896, he married Leontine Eugenie Meixner (*23 June 1873). She descended from a catholic family of Brewery owners in Suceava⁷⁶. In the post-WWI era, she would gain prominence in Cernăuţi due to her charitable commitment. From September 1897, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was appointed judge at the Câmpulung District Court⁷⁷. According to a 1938 article, he was additionally involved in the creation of the Austro-Hungarian Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*) under Franz Klein, and the code's adoption in 1898 brought him renown in professional circles⁷⁸. On 2 July 1898, Casian Tuşinschi passed away in Suceava. The „Bukowinaer Post”, in its epitaph, noted that he had been respected and liked due to his very tolerant ways⁷⁹. On occasion of his unexpected death, the Romanian-language „Telegraful” from Sibiu called Casian one of the „most able leaders of the Romanians from Suceava, an energetic fighter, a son deeply dedicated to his people and his church”⁸⁰. He was buried in Suceava, as was his wife Iulia decades later⁸¹. Later that year, as a civil servant and reserve officer, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was awarded both the civilian and military versions of the 1898 Jubilee Medal „Signum Memoriae”⁸².

Dimitrie Tuşinschi's appointment as a substitute prosecutor (*Staatsanwaltsvertreter*) in October 1899 brought him to Cernăuţi, where he would go on to spend nearly all of his remaining professional life⁸³. He arrived in the town in early January 1900⁸⁴. From this year – in connection with his professional duties – his name began appearing more often in Bukovina press⁸⁵. In 1901, „Bukowinaer Rundschau” printed the first currently known statement that could be considered a public characterization: At a trial controversial due to the evidence, the defence lawyer thanked „prosecutor Dr Tuschinski for his purely objective plea, which was based on love of humanity and a noble sense of justice, in which he only demanded the punishment of the defendant with half a mouth”. The accused was acquitted⁸⁶. In

⁷⁵ *Primpräsident Dr. Dimitrie von Tuşinschi – zu seinem 40-jährigen Dienstjubiläum*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 31 July 1932, p. 3. Exact date: *Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁷⁶ *Ahnenpaß* (genealogical passport) of Leontine von Tuschinski from 1940 in private possession within the family. Leontine's middle name from AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

⁷⁷ *Ernennung*, „Wiener Zeitung”, 30 September 1897, p. 2–3.

⁷⁸ *Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁷⁹ *Todesfälle*, „Bukowinaer Post”, 5 July 1898, p. 2.

⁸⁰ *Casian Tuşinschi*, „Telegraful Roman”, Sibiu, 27 June 1898, p. 279.

⁸¹ *Obergerichtspräsident von Tuşinschi in Suceava*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 11 October 1925, p. 4.

⁸² *Ranglisten des Kaiserlichen und Königlichen Heeres*, Vienna, 1918, p. 1573.

⁸³ *Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

⁸⁴ *Personalnachrichten*, „Bukowinaer Post”, 11 January 1900, p. 2.

⁸⁵ For example: *Schwurgericht*, „Bukowinaer Rundschau”, 29 November 1900, p. 3.

⁸⁶ *Zwei Antialkoholisten*, „Bukowinaer Rundschau”, 12 March 1901, p. 5–6.

1902, Tuşinschi observed the last execution in Cernăuţi and published a detailed account decades later. According to his reminiscences, even though he believed the execution had a deterrent effect, he stressed being an opponent of death penalty⁸⁷. In the 25-year-jubilee issue of „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung” in 1928, Tuşinschi recalls being in charge of press censorship in 1903 as the longest-serving substitute prosecutor. He remarks how controversial that duty was and how he considered it unpleasant, while stressing he never had to enforce censorship in case of „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”. He closes with the hope that the paper would continue to thrive, now „free from the shackles of censorship” in interwar Romania⁸⁸. Confiscations due to the press law happened often in pre-WWI Austrian Bukovina⁸⁹. In the major Bukovina press, no controversial statements about Tuşinschi from those years were found so far, and more research is required in smaller publications.

On 3 December 1904, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was appointed district court judge (Landgerichtsrat) *extra statum* at the Cernăuţi regional court, in recognition of excellent service⁹⁰. Leontine’s and Dimitrie’s only child Constantin Erast, my grandfather, was born on 6 November 1905 – an older sibling had passed away at a very young age, so Constantin grew up as an only child. Later in life, he recalled being given much attention and support by his parents⁹¹. By 1907, Dimitrie Tuşinschi – likely due to the demands of his daily tasks – had learned to speak Ukrainian (Ruthenisch) on a level sufficient for duty⁹². In 1908, he received a *Jubiläumskreuz 1908*, per regulations only in the civilian version. In 1915, it was replaced by the military one⁹³. From 10 December 1908, Tuşinschi was appointed first prosecutor (*Erster Staatsanwalt*) in Suceava⁹⁴. The correspondence leading to

⁸⁷ Die letzte Hinrichtung durch den Galgen im Czernowitzer Strafgerichte - Gespräch mit dem Primpräsidenten des Obergerichtes Dr. von Tuşinschi, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 6 November 1932, p. 11.

⁸⁸ Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Letter to the editor*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 25 December 1928, p. 20.

⁸⁹ Markus Winkler, *Presserecht und Zensur in der Habsburgmonarchie und in Rumänien: Fallbeispiel Bukowina*, in: *Zeitungsstadt Czernowitz*, eds: Andrei Corbea-Hoisie, Ion Lihaciu, Markus Winkler, Parthenon, Verlag Kaiserslautern und Mehlingen, 2014, p. 105–130, here: p. 109.

⁹⁰ 40 jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Primpräsidenten Dr. v. Tuşinschi, „Der Tag”, 31 Juli 1932, p. 2.

⁹¹ Recalled by Paul Tuschinski. Constantin’s first name at birth was spelled the Austrian way „Konstantin”. Birth date: AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7. Of the first child, neither birth date nor name have been located yet.

⁹² AT-OeStA: Qualifikationsliste Dr. Demeter von Tuschinski. In the preceding list from 1898, the language is not mentioned, so he must have learned it in the years between.

⁹³ On the 1912 photo below, he is wearing the civilian version. The 1915 decree awarded the military jubilee cross to all officers in the reserve currently (1915) serving, who had been reserve officers in 1908 already. It replaced the civilian version Tuşinschi was awarded in 1908. See: *Beteiligung der nichtaktiven Offiziere mit dem Militär-Jubiläumskreuz*, „Pester Lloyd”, 6 January 1915, p. 18. Per rules, the military version replaced the civilian one, as can be seen in Tuşinschi’s entry in *Ranglisten des Kaiserlichen und Königlichen Heeres*, Vienna, 1918, p. 1573.

⁹⁴ Dimitrie von Tuşinschi, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

the appointment reveals a dire situation as both the court in Suceava as well as the one in Cernăuți were understaffed. The president of the Cernăuți court asked to delay the appointment until the end of December so Tușinschi could finish some work, but this was denied⁹⁵. Tușinschi's duty in Suceava was brief and he was mentioned relatively little in the press while there. In spring 1910, he returned to Cernăuți by swapping posts with Orest Baleanu, his former classmate, as Tușinschi's requested transfer was approved⁹⁶. In June 1910, Tușinschi became a member of the newly constituted Cernăuți branch of the Austrian *Gesellschaft vom Silbernen Kreuze*, a charitable society supporting veterans⁹⁷. Now, as first prosecutor in Cernăuți, a prominent post, Dimitrie Tușinschi's attendance at events was often reported in the press. Be it at gatherings for officials at the *Landespräsident's* house, funerals, ballroom events, or other public functions, mentions of him in Bukovina newspapers increased, and Tușinschi was often mentioned attending along the same circle of high ranking officials from of the city. In July 1912, he was awarded the Austrian Order of the Iron Crown 3rd Class, which was a prestigious award. In the family, it was recalled that Dimitrie Tușinschi was given the choice between a promotion and the Order – and, due to the latter's prestige, he chose the award⁹⁸. An April 1912 letter by the chief prosecutor (*Oberstaatsanwalt*) at the Court of Appeal in Lemberg to the Austrian ministry of justice confirms this anecdote: In 1912, the position as vice president of the regional court in Cernăuți was soon to be vacant. Tușinschi intended to apply for that position, which would have been a step up in his career. However, according to the chief prosecutor, it was impossible to find a replacement as first prosecutor, so he asked Tușinschi to refrain from applying to the post. Tușinschi obliged, and in return, the *Oberstaatsanwalt* suggested awarding Dimitrie Tușinschi with the Order of the Iron Crown⁹⁹. The documentation preserved at Austrian State Archives mention that Oktavian Regner von Bleyleben, among others, had expressed his appreciation for Tușinschi's professional achievements¹⁰⁰. In mid-May 1912, before the order was awarded, Alexander Artymowicz, president of the Cernăuți regional court, passed away. Tușinschi's speech for his memorial marks the first time an address of his was printed verbatim in the press¹⁰¹. Some

⁹⁵ Personnel file Dimitrie Tușinschi, in: State Archives of Chernivtsi Oblast. The letter has an old signature /index no. 6142 and is dated 14 December 1908.

⁹⁶ *Personalnachrichten*, „Juristische Blätter”, 27 March 1910, p. 151.

⁹⁷ *Der Zweigverein Czernowitz der Gesellschaft vom österreichischen Silbernen Kreuze*, „Bukowinaer Post”, 21 June 1910, p. 2-3.

⁹⁸ Recalled to me in the 1990s by my father Paul, Dimitrie's grandson.

⁹⁹ Letter from 5. April 1912, National Archives of Romania, Personnel file Dr. Dimitrie Tușinschi, prim-procuror la Cernăuți, fondul Guvernământul Cezaro-Crăesc al Bucoviniei. Ministerul Justiției, dosar nr. 63.

¹⁰⁰ AT-OeStA, Haus- Hof und Staatsarchiv: *Ordensakt mit Geschäftszahl 381 ex 1912* and *Akt der Kabinettskanzlei Geschäftszahl 1820 ex 1912*.

¹⁰¹ *Alexander Artymowicz †*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 21 Mai 1912, p. 3-4.

press reports for the award of the Order included a short characterisation and, for example, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung” called Tuşinschi an „individual with outstanding intellectual gifts, a strong, energetic character and with the most engaging personal qualities”. It emphasizes that he received the Order at a relatively young age¹⁰². The oldest currently known photo of Tuşinschi shows him wearing the newly-awarded Order of the Iron Crown in 1912¹⁰³.



Fig. 1.

Dimitrie Tuşinschi in 1912. He is wearing the Order of the Iron Crown, the civilian and military version of the 1898 Jubilee-memory medal, and the civilian 1908 Jubilee cross, which got replaced by the military version in early 1915¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰² *Czernowitzer Angelegenheiten – auszeichnung*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 30 July 1912, p. 3.

¹⁰³ According to the receipt preserved at AT-OeStA, Haus- Hof und Staatsarchiv: *Ordensakt mit Geschäftszahl 381 ex 1912*, the order and the statute book were delivered in Cernăuți on 10 August 1912, which means the photo was taken after that date. Since the book where the photo was published was printed in 1912, and Tuşinschi was not in the appendix part for late additions, he likely sent the photo shortly after receiving the order.

¹⁰⁴ *Der Österreichisch-Kaiserliche Orden der Eisernen Krone und seine Mitglieder*, Vienna 1912, p. 192.

In 1912, Tuşinschi became a member of the newly founded Cernăuţi branch of the Austrian Naval Association (*Österreichischer Flottenverein*)¹⁰⁵, and he attended 31. *Deutscher Juristentag* in Vienna in early September 1912¹⁰⁶. Generally, Tuşinschi did several travels prior to WWI. His *Qualifikationsliste* as an officer lists places he was familiar with: In 1893, only Bukovina is mentioned. By 1895, he had travelled parts of Galicia. By 1907, Tuşinschi had additionally been to Vienna and its surroundings¹⁰⁷. In 1907, Tuşinschi visited Rügen and Berlin for six week. This was, as of 1941, the only time Tuşinschi had visited Germany¹⁰⁸. By his last *Qualifikationsliste* from 1918, he had also been to Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Styria, North Bohemia, and the surrounding of Constanţa in Romania¹⁰⁹. In late 1913, Tuşinschi requested to have his family's aristocratic background as old Polish nobility recognized by the Austrian-Hungarian state, including the family's Polish *Nalecz* coat of arms, as well as recognition of the nobility as knighthood with the title „Ritter von”. His presentation of the family history indicates the thorough research he had done or commissioned at various archives to prove the family's background. The file with the documentation of the proceedings shows how Rudolf Graf von Meran, *Landespräsident* of Bukovina, wrote letters on behalf of Tuşinschi to support this cause¹¹⁰. The process took time. Apparently, this became known in Cernăuţi: A rather polemic article about a controversial legal topic in April 1914 mentions the „not yet nobilized first prosecutor”¹¹¹. Ultimately, Tuşinschi was granted the title „von Tuschinski” in July 1914. The officials couldn't confirm the family's coat of arms as they lacked resources for research, and were at that time unable to recognize the foreign title as „Ritter von”, as such was only done for nobility situated in Galicia at a specific point in time¹¹². On 30 July 1914, on the brink of WWI, Cernăuţi newspapers reported the recognition of the nobility¹¹³. Within the family, the confirmation letter dated 31 July 1914 is preserved. On that afternoon, the general mobilization was declared in Cernăuţi¹¹⁴. Two days later, on 2 August 1914, Dimitrie Tuşinschi reported to his unit, *Sanitätsabteilung 1* in Vienna, for

¹⁰⁵ *Neue Mitglieder – Ortsgruppe Czernowitz*, „Die Flagge”, July 1912, p. 22.

¹⁰⁶ 31. *Deutscher Juristentag in Wien*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 16 July 1912, p. 4.

¹⁰⁷ AT-OeStA, *Qualifikationsliste Demeter von Tuschinski*.

¹⁰⁸ German Federal Archive Bundesarchiv, Dokumente zur Umsiedlung 1940, BAArch R 9361-IV/190993.

¹⁰⁹ AT-OeStA, *Auskunftsbogen über Personen des Nachrichtendienstes*, NA. Nr. 21193/1917.

¹¹⁰ AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

¹¹¹ *Allerlei*, „Die Wahrheit”, 19 April 1912, p. 40–44. The article also remarks afterward how the „prosecutor” was always quite willing to confiscate publications. Though, according to Tuşinschi's reminiscences mentioned earlier, he held that office years before as substitute prosecutor, so likely, in 1912, the „prosecutor” willing to confiscate press was another substitute prosecutor.

¹¹² AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

¹¹³ *Adelsanerkennung des Ersten Staatsanwaltes Dr. Tuschinski*, „Czernowitzer Tagblatt”, 30 July 1914, p. 5. „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung” also reported it the same day.

¹¹⁴ Alfons Regius, *Unpublished diary*, p. 1, in: AT-OeStA/KA NL 395 (B).

active duty¹¹⁵. On the morning of 5 August 1914, he personally showed up at *k.k. Ministerium des Innern* in Vienna to ask for the optional certificate confirming his aristocratic title, which he picked up the following day at noon¹¹⁶. That certificate and its envelope, both preserved in the family archive, are among the documents which Dimitrie's son Constantin successfully hid throughout the Socialist period in Romania.

1914 – 1918

By August 1914, Dimitrie Tuşinschi held the military rank of a First Lieutenant in the Reserve¹¹⁷. There are several stories preserved in the family about his WWI service, some recalled to my father likely by Dimitrie himself in the early 1950s. Where verifiable, so far, they turned out to be true. Most concerned Dimitrie's late war service at *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz*, a military intelligence unit. There, from 1917–18, one of Dimitrie's duties was to report on Romanian activities in Bukovina. Therefore, in light of his later career, particularly this episode is of high interest. It seems that this activity was not reported in the post-WWI press, though one brief remark in a portrait from 1938 possibly hints at it: „It remains unforgettable how Dr. Tuşinschi, during the war, despite his very exposed position in the military judicative, supported his fellow countrymen”¹¹⁸. In August 1914, serving at *Garnisonsspital 1* in Vienna, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was soon ruled to be indispensable („*unentbehrlich*”) as first prosecutor and was therefore exempt from active military service. He was scheduled to return to Cernăuţi to resume his civilian duty on 31 August. However, as Cernăuţi was hard to reach by that time (and was occupied by Russian forces for the first time soon after), Tuşinschi asked for permission to voluntarily continue his duty at *Sanitätsabteilung 1* in Vienna until fulfilling his civilian post was possible again¹¹⁹. This was granted, and he served as instruction officer and later commander of the reserve officer school in *Garnisonsspital 1* military hospital in Vienna until 26 May 1915¹²⁰. Around the time of the first Russian occupation of Cernăuţi, around August or

¹¹⁵ AT-OeStA, Abt. Kriegsarchiv: KM 1914, Abt. 1, 92–284: Letter by Dimitrie Tuşinschi to *k.u.k. Sanitätstruppenkommando*, dated 31 August 1914, in which he describes the events of August 1914.

¹¹⁶ Remark on title page of file 1127A/1914, in: AT-OeStA/AVA Adel HAA AR 1014.7.

¹¹⁷ Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Undated letter to emperor Franz Joseph regarding his military rank, early December 1914*, AT-OeStA, Abt. Kriegsarchiv: KM 1914, Abt. 1, 84–12/69 (box 6819, 46).

¹¹⁸ *Dimitrie Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p.5.

¹¹⁹ AT-OeStA, Abt. Kriegsarchiv: KM 1914, Abt. 1, 92–284: Letter by Dimitrie Tuşinschi to *k.u.k. Sanitätstruppenkommando*, dated 31 August 1914.

¹²⁰ Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Letter to k.k. Justizministerium from 15 August 1916*, in: National Archives of Romania, personnel file Dr. Dimitrie Tuşinschi, prim-procuror la Cernăuţi, fondul Guvernământul Cezaro-Crăesc al Bucovinei. Ministerul Justiţiei, dosar nr. 63.

September 1914, Tușinschi's wife and son joined him in Vienna. The family lived together in the 9th district at Höfergasse 5, Apartment 9. Leontine and Constantin stayed in Vienna until Summer of 1918, and occasionally, the family was joined by Dimitrie's mother Iulia¹²¹. The apartment was very close to *Garnisonsspital 1*, and, for example, Dimitrie's school friend Stefan Weidenfeld lived nearby in Alserstraße 21¹²². Dimitrie's son Constantin attended Maximiliansgymnasium in Vienna from fall 1915 until Summer of 1918¹²³. From 1 March 1915, Tușinschi was promoted to *Hauptmann in der Reserve* („Captain in the Reserves”)¹²⁴.

Dimitrie Tușinschi recounted that he served in his civil position in Bukovina again from 27 May 1915 to 18 June 1916, after Cernăuți had been retaken by Austrian troops¹²⁵. However, it appears he might have initially remained in Vienna during this period, as his departure is only noted on 13 July 1915 with „unknown” destination, and he again spent time at the family's Vienna apartment from 17 to 21 September 1915. Upon leaving, Suceava was now noted as his destination¹²⁶. On 25 September 1915, *Czernowitzer Tagblatt* notes that Tușinschi had arrived in Cernăuți¹²⁷. From 1 October 1915, the Cernăuți regional court reopened, the prosecution returning after it had relocated to Suceava between January and September¹²⁸. In 1915, Tușinschi was also appointed to the Judicial State Examination Commission at the University of Czernowitz¹²⁹. Aside from a few reports from rare public events, Tușinschi had little presence in the Cernăuți press during wartime. In August 1915, colonel Eduard Fischer recalls how legal officials in Lemberg stayed during the Russian occupation, and he calls the substitute prosecutor Sywulak who voluntarily left the city with the Russian army as a „high traitor” (*Hochverräter*). Fischer contrasts this with the personnel in Cernăuți. In particular, he singles out how Tușinschi, before WWI, worked on trials against „Russophiles” in Cernăuți with „great energy and recklessness”, which caused

¹²¹ Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv, information provided on 17 June 2024. The first mention of Leontine and Constantin in Höfergasse 5 is from 21 September 1914, though it states they stayed there already before that date.

¹²² Stadtarchiv Wien, Meldeschein vom 4. November 1911.

¹²³ *Jahresbericht des k.k. Maximiliangymnasiums in Wien*, Schuljahr 1915/16, 1916/17, 1917/18.

¹²⁴ *Allerhöchste Entschlüsse*, „Verordnungsblatt für das k.u.k. Heer”, 17 February 1915.

¹²⁵ AT-OeStA, KM 1916, Abt. 1, Nr. 34611, Kt 52–157.

¹²⁶ Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv, information provided on 17 June 2024.

¹²⁷ *Von der Staatsanwaltschaft*, „Czernowitzer Tagblatt”, 25 September 1915, p. 4.

¹²⁸ *Zur Wiedereröffnung des k.k. Landesgerichtes für Strafsachen*, „Czernowitzer Tagblatt”, 29. September 1915, p. 3.

¹²⁹ *Ernennung*, „Verordnungsblatt für den Dienstbereich des k.k. Ministeriums für Kultus und Unterricht”, 1915, p. 42.

animosity („*Feindschaft*”) of the chief prosecutor in Lemberg toward him¹³⁰. In December 1915, Fischer proposes enlisting Tuşinschi for *Evidenzbureau*, the Austrian-Hungarian secret service, citing Tuşinschi's loyalty and his knowledge of both Bukovinian refugee circles and Greater Romanian propaganda. Fischer argues that with the upcoming return of substitute prosecutor Norbert Lazarus from Russian captivity, Tuşinschi would no longer be indispensable in his civilian post¹³¹. On 8 January 1916, Tuşinschi was awarded the bronze military merit medal *Signum Laudis* for his 1914/15 service at *Garnisonsspital 1*¹³². As Cernăuţi was occupied by Russian troops from June 1916, Tuşinschi returned to Vienna and rejoined his wife and son from 20 June 1916 at Höfergasse 5¹³³. He was still considered indispensable from his civilian post – though, there was again no way for him to serve in that capacity. Thus, in August 1916, Tuşinschi asked to serve again at his unit in Vienna until Cernăuţi was retaken¹³⁴. His request was ultimately granted, though, as there were no vacant officer positions in *Sanitätsabteilung 1*, Tuşinschi was assigned to *Divisionsgericht* military court in Vienna¹³⁵. There, he served from 30 September 1916 to 17 September 1917¹³⁶ as *Hauptmannauditor*, which was reported in a few press articles related to a trial in September 1917¹³⁷. In the family, it was recalled that, at *Divisionsgericht*, Tuşinschi was respectfully addressed as „*Herr Doktor*” due to his academic degree. On 24 January 1917, Tuşinschi was awarded the „war decoration” (i.e. the red/white ribbon) for the *Signum Laudis* medal awarded earlier¹³⁸. On 12 June 1917, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was awarded the title *Hofrat*¹³⁹. During Russian occupation, his home in Cernăuţi was apparently looted, as items had disappeared¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁰ Eduard Fischer, Letter from 27 August 1915, in: AT-OeStA, KA, NL, BC, 8, 21, Fol 175/176.

¹³¹ Eduard Fischer, Letter from 23 December 1915, in: AT-OeStA, KA, NL, BC, 8, 21, Fol 300–302.

¹³² *Allerhöchste Entschließungen*, „Verordnungsblatt für das k.u.k. Heer”, No. 11, 17 January 1916, p. 245–253.

¹³³ Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv, information provided on 17 June 2024.

¹³⁴ AT-OeStA, KM 1916, Abt. 1, Nr. 34611, Kt 52–157.

¹³⁵ AT-OeStA, KM 1916, Abt1, Nr. 92–1547/2.

¹³⁶ *Personnel Sheet*, AT-OeStA, EvB NA, box 3608, file 899.

¹³⁷ E.g., *Gerichtssaal – Die Unterschleife in der Verpflegungsbranche*, „Die Zeit”, 14 September 1917, p. 11–12.

¹³⁸ *Bericht der k.k. Lemberger Oberstaatsanwaltschaft an das k.k. Justizministerium in Wien*, 24 March 1917, in: National Archives of Romania, personnel file Dr. Dimitrie Tuşinschi, prim-procuror la Cernăuţi, fondul Guvernământul Cezaro-Crăesc al Bucovinei. Ministerul Justiţiei, dosar nr. 63.

¹³⁹ *Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

¹⁴⁰ *Verschiedenes – während der Russeninvasion*, „Czernowitzer Tagblatt”, 16 March 1919, p. 4.

From 18 September 1917, Cernăuți being under Austrian control again, Dimitrie Tușinschi was assigned to *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz*¹⁴¹. After advice from Tobias Neubauer, PhD student at University of Oldenburg, who had been in contact with archivists in Vienna, I was able to identify a great number of files related to this post. I plan to analyse these sources in future research, and they paint a vivid picture of WWI in Bukovina. In many cases, I was apparently the first researcher to review these files since they were deposited¹⁴². Particularly, the question how Tușinschi treated cases related to Romanian espionage and propaganda is of significance, given his prominent role afterwards in post-WWI Romania. For his service as military intelligence officer („*Nachrichtenoﬃzier*”) at *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz*, Tușinschi was awarded the silver military merit medal *Signum Laudis* with the war ribbon and without swords in September 1918¹⁴³. An anecdote told in the family concerned him transporting secret documents in a train, and he had to be alone in a compartment as part of this duty. When another officer tried opening the locked door and shouted to open it, Dimitrie showed him his paperwork. The officer immediately saluted and politely went to a different compartment. Before 1918, Dimitrie Tușinschi received the aristocratic title „knight of” („*Ritter von*”)¹⁴⁴. According to family lore, it happened toward the very end of the war. Teich recalls „*Demeter Ritter von Tuschinski*” in his memories of the period right after the end of WWI¹⁴⁵. As late as 12 October 1918, he was considered indispensable at *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz*, so he would not have to serve in his civilian duty¹⁴⁶. After 1918, with his name’s spelling Romanianized, Tușinschi was often still referred as „*Ritter von Tușinschi*” (sometimes spelled “*Tuschinski*”) in the German-speaking press, examples ranging from 1923¹⁴⁷ to 1940¹⁴⁸.

¹⁴¹ ÖStA: Auskunftsbogen über Personen des Nachrichtendienstes, NA. Nr. 21193/1917.

¹⁴² Numerous files can be found in the *R-Akten*, Nachrichtenstelle, 7 AK in AT-OeStA/KA.

¹⁴³ Abwehroﬃzier des Heeresfrontkommandos FM. Baron Kövess in Czernowitz: *Belohnungsantrag*, in: ÖStA, OBA 257027, fol. 72. And: Report of k.k. Oberstaatsanwaltschaft in Lemberg to k.k. Justizministerium in Wien from 25 September 1918, in: National Archives of Romania, personnel file Dr. Dimitrie Tușinschi, prim-procuror la Cernăuți, fondul Guvernământul Cezaro-Crăesc al Bucoviniei. Ministerul Justiției, dosar nr. 63.

¹⁴⁴ He is mentioned to have held the title during the Austrian-Hungarian time in: Erich Prokopowitsch, *Studien zur Geschichte der Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie, Band III: Die Rumänische Nationalbewegung in der Bukowina und der Dako-Romanismus*. Herausgegeben von der Kommission für die Geschichte der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie (1848–1918) an der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften im Jahr 1965, p. 191.

¹⁴⁵ Teich, Meier, *Denn Recht muss doch Recht bleiben*, „Die Stimme”, 01/1971, p. 5.

¹⁴⁶ *Personnel Sheet*, AT-OeStA, EvB NA, box 3608, file 899.

¹⁴⁷ *Die Reise des Königspaares nach Warschau*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 26 June 1923, p. 1.

¹⁴⁸ *Das Testament Dr. Radulescus*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 27 January 1940, p. 3.

After 1918

Tușinschi repeatedly spoke out publicly to emphasize Bukovina's affiliation to Romania, as is stated in „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” in 1938 without mentioning dates¹⁴⁹. It seems improbable that he did so before 1918, since his loyalty was often mentioned in Austrian documents, though it could be plausible that he made such statements in 1918 in the days after the war ended, when Bukovina's fate was not yet certain. This remains a topic for further research. Before November 1918, the Court of Appeal in Lemberg had held jurisdiction for Bukovina. Now, with Lemberg being in a different country after the breakup of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, having no court of appeal led to numerous legal issues in Bukovina. It was considered to either establish a court of appeal in Cernăuți or to set up a separate department in Iași for the affairs of Bukovina. In the end, the former was decided upon¹⁵⁰. After Iancu Flondor and Ion Nistor in particular supported the idea, the Cernăuți Court of Appeal (*Curtea de Apel Cernăuți*) held its opening ceremony on 14 June 1919, comprising of one section and a total of ten judges¹⁵¹. Dimitrie Tușinschi was appointed attorney general at the opening¹⁵². In his speech at the opening, justice minister Buzdugan emphasized that one of the tasks of the judges is to help bring the different population groups closer together¹⁵³. Shortly before, Dimitrie Tușinschi had been offered the post of one out of three counsellors-rapporteurs for Bukovina (*Consilieri-raportori*) at the High Court of Cassation and Justice in Bucharest (*Înalta Curte de Casație și Justiție*). However, he declined, citing family reasons. Instead, Orest Baleanu, whom Tușinschi had known since school days, was appointed in that position¹⁵⁴. Apparently, in the 1920s and 30s, Tușinschi was repeatedly offered this transfer to Bucharest. He always declined so he would remain in Bukovina¹⁵⁵. In July 1919, Tușinschi was part of a commission which proposed that Romanian judges and judges of other nationalities living in Bukovina would be given equal consideration¹⁵⁶.

¹⁴⁹ *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5. The article names no timeframe for such speeches, but it would appear plausible that he might have made such statements immediately after the dissolution of the Austrian-Hungarian empire, when the question of affiliation was urgent.

¹⁵⁰ Mircea Duțu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 223.

¹⁵¹ *Die Zehnjahresfeier des Czernowitzer Oberlandesgerichts*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 3 July 1929, p. 3–4.

¹⁵² „Monitorul Oficial”, 3 July 1919, p. 3382.

¹⁵³ Mircea Duțu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 224.

¹⁵⁴ Anton Iliese, *Iarăși limita de vârstă*, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul VI, No. 8–9 (March–April 1938), p. 162–164.

¹⁵⁵ *Dr. Dimitrie von Tușinschi – zu seinem 40-jährigen Dienstjubiläum*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 31 July 1932, p. 3.

¹⁵⁶ *Ernennungen bei Gericht*, „Ostjüdische Zeitung”, 26 July 1919, p. 4.

Several years later, Dimitrie Tușinschi described the establishment of a Court of Appeal in Bukovina as a desire that had existed among the population there since 1851¹⁵⁷.

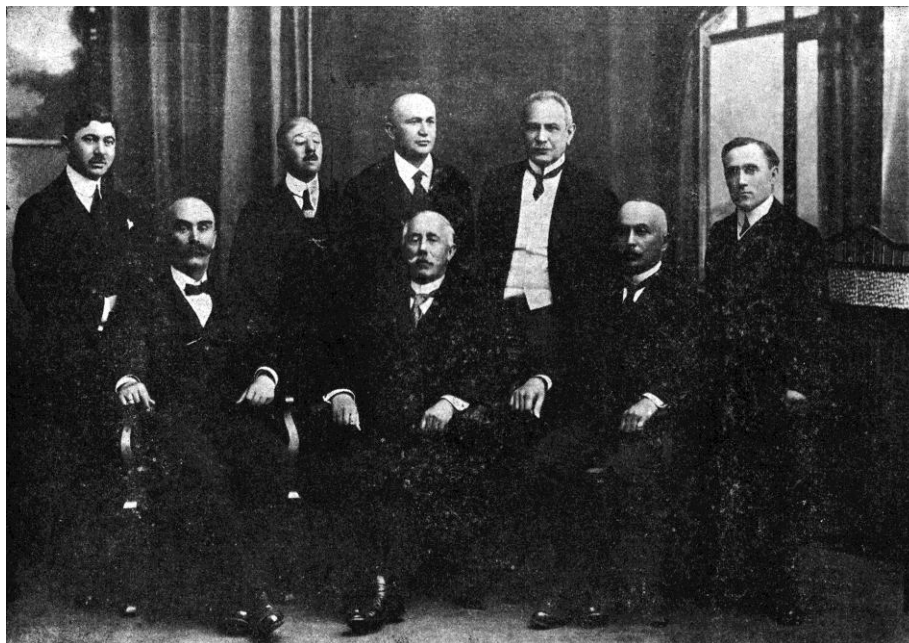


Fig. 2:

Cernăuți Court of Appeal on its opening day, 14 June 1919. Top: Dimitrie C. Bagdad, Temistocle Bocancea, Dr. Corneliu Gheorghian (Counselor), Dr. Nicolae Țurcan, Dr. Aureliu Căpățină. Bottom: Dr. Vasile Boldur (President), Dimitrie Buzdugan (Minister of Justice), Dr. Dimitrie Tușinschi (Attorney General)¹⁵⁸.

Initially, the existing Austrian laws remained in force; only the legal organization was changed. The situation was intended to be temporary, but was repeatedly extended¹⁵⁹. In particular, Duțu emphasizes that civil law remained virtually unchanged¹⁶⁰. For the cooperation of legal officials from the formerly Austrian-Hungarian territory and those from Romania, Tușinschi coined the term of an „amalgamation” of the judiciary¹⁶¹. As attorney general, Tușinschi regularly appeared in the press. Notably, for example, a positive portrait in 1922 on occasion of

¹⁵⁷ *Die Feierlichkeiten im Justizpalais*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 12 January 1926, p. 3–4.

¹⁵⁸ Photo and names from: „Pagini Juridice”, Anul III, No. 1 (15 July 1934).

¹⁵⁹ Mircea Duțu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 220.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 222.

¹⁶¹ Dimitrie Tușinschi, *Justiz und Vereinigungs-Feier*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 29 November 1933, p. 2.

his 30-year-jubilee as civil servant alleged that he was „sincerely honoured by all classes of people, all social circles and all nationalities”, and that he was „so completely immersed in his high profession and so completely armed against every prejudice that neither national nor social currents can touch him”¹⁶². On 10 November 1922, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was awarded the Romanian Order of the Crown in Commander rank (*Ordinul Coroana României, Comandor*)¹⁶³.

At the beginning of 1923, a law stipulated that only the Romanian language was permitted in court. This caused difficulties in proceedings when not all parties were equally proficient in the language. After a conference at the Cernăuţi Court of Appeal, Tuşinschi travelled to Bucharest on 25 February to personally present this matter to the Minister of Justice¹⁶⁴. On June 24th 1923, when King Ferdinand I. visited Cernăuţi, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was part of a delegation that welcomed him¹⁶⁵. In December of the same year, as a former Austrian officer, Tuşinschi was enlisted as Captain in the Reserve (*căpitan*) in the 14th Infantry Regiment of the Romanian army¹⁶⁶. On 6 January 1924, for the first time, a major press article written by Tuşinschi for a general audience appeared in „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”: He wrote a relatively long essay printed over two pages about the duties and requirements to be a good prosecutor and about a prosecutor’s role¹⁶⁷.

In 1924/25, the jurisdiction of courts was changed, also in order to abolish the old border of Bessarabia¹⁶⁸. This created a more confusing legislative situation: Duţu describes how residents of the same district could suddenly be subject to different legislation depending on their exact place of residence – either the „Chaos” in Bessarabia, the „Austrian Civil Code” in Bukovina, or Romanian legislation in some places¹⁶⁹. In 1934, Tuşinschi describes the situation, and recounts how Russian law had been practiced in some places in Bessarabia until 4 June 1928¹⁷⁰. A major topic in the early 1920s was stopping the increasing prices, for which a survey was held at the court of appeal that Tuşinschi took part in¹⁷¹. In October 1925, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was appointed President of the Cernăuţi Court of Appeal¹⁷². His appointment was viewed

¹⁶² *Generalstaatsanwalt von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 13 August 1922, p. 4.

¹⁶³ „Monitorul Oficial”, 17 November 1922, p. 8290.

¹⁶⁴ *Gericht und Sprache*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 28 February 1922, p. 2.

¹⁶⁵ *Die Reise des Königspaares nach Warschau*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 26 June 1923, p. 1.

¹⁶⁶ *Die in die Reserve übernommenen ehemaligen Österreichisch-Ungarischen Offiziere*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 10 January 1924, p. 2.

¹⁶⁷ Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Wendet der Staatsanwalt nur starres Recht an?*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 6 January 1924, pp. 9/10.

¹⁶⁸ Mircea Duţu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 221.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁷⁰ Dimitrie Tuşinschi’s speech printed in: *15 Jahre Obergericht – Denkwürdige Rede des Primpräsidenten Dr. v. Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1934, p. 6–7.

¹⁷¹ *Die Teuerung – Die Enquete im Oberlandesgericht*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 30 April 1924, p. 1–2.

¹⁷² *Feierlicher Amtsantritt und Eidesleistung des neuen Oberlandesgerichtspräsidenten v. Tuşinschi – Die Persönlichkeit des neuen Präsidenten*, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 13 October 1925, p. 2.

favourably in major Bukovina German- and Romanian-language press¹⁷³. He apparently already had a certain popularity with the population by that time¹⁷⁴. In his first presentation to Justice Minister Gheorghe Gh. Mârzescu on 4 October 1925, Tușinschi expressed the wish to create a second section of the court to reduce the backlog caused by the increasing workload that had delayed some proceedings¹⁷⁵. The request was granted, and on 1 January 1926, a second section of the Court of Appeal was opened with additional judges. Each of the sections had its own independent sphere of activity. Dimitrie Tușinschi was appointed president of the first section and First President (*prim președinte*) of the entire Cernăuți Court of Appeal on 1 January 1926¹⁷⁶. This made him the highest-ranking civil servant in the city¹⁷⁷. At the same time, three new county courts („tribunals”) were established in Storojineț, Rădăuți and Câmpulung in addition to the existing ones in Cernăuți and Suceava. Overall, therefore, a total of 34 courts were active in the jurisdiction of the Cernăuți Court of Appeal at the beginning of 1926¹⁷⁸. These changes were described by the press as a „new era in the administration of justice in Bukovina under the leadership of First President Tușinschi”, with the hope that numerous grievances would be improved as a result¹⁷⁹. Shortly after his appointment, Tușinschi fell ill with appendicitis in mid-January 1926 and had to undergo an operation¹⁸⁰. As a result, he was only able to resume his duties at the beginning of April 1926¹⁸¹. Presumably in reference to this episode, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” wrote in 1938 that when Dimitrie Tușinschi „once fell ill, prayers were held in churches and synagogues for his recovery”¹⁸². In March 1926, Tușinschi was awarded honorary citizenship of Storojineț, and during the ceremony – held in Tușinschi’s Cernăuți apartment as he was recovering – major Zanea thanked him for his support in establishing the Storojineț county court¹⁸³.

¹⁷³ For example: *Oberlandesgerichtspräsident von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1925, p. 1.

¹⁷⁴ *Obergerichtspräsident von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1925, p. 1.

¹⁷⁵ *Die Zehnjahresfeier des Czernowitzer Oberlandesgerichts*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 3 July 1929, p. 3–4. See also: Mircea Dușu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 224.

¹⁷⁶ *Die Reorganisation des Obergerichtes – Interview mit dem Ersten Präsidenten des Oberlandesgerichtes Herrn Dr. Dimitrie von Tuschinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 1 January 1926, p. 3.

¹⁷⁷ *40jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Prim-Präsidenten Dr. v. Tușinschi*, „Der Tag”, 31 July 1932, p. 2.

¹⁷⁸ *Die Zehnjahresfeier des Czernowitzer Oberlandesgerichts*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 3 July 1929, p. 3–4.

¹⁷⁹ *Wie steht es um unsere Rechtspflege ?*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 22 January 1926, p. 2.

¹⁸⁰ *Plötzliche Erkrankung des Obergerichtspräsidenten*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 2 January 1926, p. 4.

¹⁸¹ *Tagesneuigkeiten – vom Oberlandesgericht*, „Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost”, 9 April 1926, p. 2.

¹⁸² *Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5.

¹⁸³ *Ueberreichung der Storojinezter Ehrenbürgerdiploms an Oberpräsident Dr. von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 11 March 1926, p. 3.

In his capacity as First President of the Court of Appeal, Tușinschi took part in numerous public events with often high-ranking representatives from various fields. A great number of press reports bear witness to this: From speeches at funerals¹⁸⁴ and opening ceremonies¹⁸⁵ to parties and ballroom events¹⁸⁶, to welcoming Romanian and foreign dignitaries and scholars like Henri Capitant¹⁸⁷, there is a wealth of evidence of his presence in the city's public life. As First President of the Court of Appeal, Tușinschi was repeatedly interviewed in the press¹⁸⁸. During WWI, the land registries in Bukovina had been mostly destroyed, which made determination about ownerships difficult. Apparently, the work on reconstructing them had stalled in the early 1920s, and Tușinschi was credited in getting the work underway in the late 1920s, and by 1928, all courts were at working on their reconstruction¹⁸⁹. Work proceeded at different places depending on the location, and as late as 1935, Tușinschi personally visited Vijnîța to observe the progress there¹⁹⁰. In October 1928, Tușinschi was awarded the Commander grade of the Romanian Order of the Star (*Comandor: Ordinul Steaua României*)¹⁹¹. Until 1932, he was additionally awarded honorary citizenships in Arbore¹⁹², Dornești¹⁹³ Vama and Țibeni¹⁹⁴. The article about Dornești states the honorary citizenship was bestowed to thank Tușinschi for his role in reconstructing the local land registry.

Generally, from the mid-1920s, the number of articles written by Tușinschi published in the Cernăuți press increases, as does the number of verbatim reproductions of speeches he held. Additionally, his charitable commitment apparently increased as well. For example, he was president of the Central Office for Child Protection and Youth Care in Bucovina (*Centrala pentru ocrotirea copiilor și îngrijirea tinerilor din Bucovina*)¹⁹⁵, in addition to being vice president

¹⁸⁴ E.g., *Zum Abschied des Generals Mircescu – Der Toast des Generalstaatsanwalts Dr. R. v. Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 1 May 1925, p. 2.

¹⁸⁵ E.g., *Die Autowerbungsfahrt - Prinz Nicolai in Czernowitz*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 June 1927, p. 4.

¹⁸⁶ E.g., *Kommers und Ball der „Bucovina” und „Moldova”*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 2 March 1930, p. 6.

¹⁸⁷ *Professor Capitant in Czernowitz*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 24 May 1929, p. 4.

¹⁸⁸ For example: *Die Justiz in der Bukowina*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 12 April 1931, p. 9–10.

¹⁸⁹ *Grundbuch und Rechtsleben*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 3 June 1928, p. 16.

¹⁹⁰ *Oberpräsident Dr. von Tușinschi in Vijnitza*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 23 November 1935, p. 5.

¹⁹¹ „Monitorul Oficial”, 14 October 1928, p. 8474.

¹⁹² *Ernennung zum Ehrenbürger*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 27 May 1932, p. 3.

¹⁹³ *Ibidem*, 24 February 1932, p. 3.

¹⁹⁴ *40 jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Prim-Präsidenten des Obergerichtes Dr. Dimitrie von Tușinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 31 July 1932, no. 1932, p. 2.

¹⁹⁵ *Countess Luise von Wassilko, Czernowitzer Frauen im Dienste der sozialen Fürsorge*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 7 June 1925, p. 6.

of the Cernăuţi Rescue Organisation¹⁹⁶ and the Cernăuţi branch of the Red Cross¹⁹⁷. He was also involved in initiatives caring for war widows and orphans, was as protector of a school for poor children and supported destitute civil servants and servants¹⁹⁸. In 1932, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” reported that, in the preceding decades, in Bukovina there had been „no major action of a social nature” whose „driving factor had not been Prime-President Dr. Dimitrie von Tuşinschi”¹⁹⁹. About two weeks later, Tuşinschi published a long article, elaborating how the difficult economic situation affects charitable endeavours²⁰⁰. Tuşinschi’s wife Leontine was also very involved in cultural and charitable endeavours. For example, she organized charity events to support widows and orphans²⁰¹, she was among the founding members of the Cernăuţi animal welfare organization in 1930²⁰², and she was active in the anti-tuberculosis association²⁰³, the Red Cross²⁰⁴ and the Rescue society²⁰⁵. Due to her support and commitment to the Cernăuţi Conservatory since its founding in 1922, she was honoured fifteen years later²⁰⁶. In 1938, it was said that Leontine Tuşinschi participated in „all” cultural and humanitarian endeavours in Cernăuţi²⁰⁷. On 17 March 1930, she was awarded the Sanitary Merit medal (*Meritul Sanitar*), 1st class²⁰⁸.

The legal journal „Pagini Juridice” was published in Cernăuţi from 1932 to 1940²⁰⁹. On its front page, Dimitrie Tuşinschi was listed as member of the journal’s editorial board („direcţiunea”) until his retirement from the Court of Appeal in

¹⁹⁶ *Von der Cernăußer Rettungsgesellschaft*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 10 October 1937, p. 11.

¹⁹⁷ *Generalversammlung des „Roten Kreuzes”*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 12 February 1929, p. 3.

¹⁹⁸ *Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 April 1938, p. 5; *Die Dekorierungsfeier im Waisenhaus*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 25 July 1925, p. 3.

¹⁹⁹ *40jähriges Dienstjubiläum des Prim-Präsidenten des Obergerichts Dr. Dimitrie von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 31 July 1932, p. 2.

²⁰⁰ *Schutz des Lebens und Eigentums der Bürger*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 14 August 1932, p. 9.

²⁰¹ *Thee Dansant der Advokaten*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 2 November 1934, p. 3.

²⁰² *Schützt die Kreatur – Konstituierende Generalversammlung des Czernowitzer Tierschutzvereins*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 21 May 1930, p. 3–4.

²⁰³ *Ein Ambulatorium für Tuberkulose*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 5 December 1925, p. 3.

²⁰⁴ *Der Ausschuß des Roten Kreuzes*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 7 February 1940, p. 2.

²⁰⁵ *Czernowitzer Freiwillige Rettungsgesellschaft*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 14 July 1932, p. 6.

²⁰⁶ *Personalnachricht*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 16 May 1937, p. 5.

²⁰⁷ *Präsident von Tuşinschi verlässt seinen Dienstposten*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 10 April 1938, p. 1–2.

²⁰⁸ *Auszeichnung*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 17 April 1930, p. 5.

²⁰⁹ *Pagini Juridice*, Anul I, No. 1 (1 May 1932). According to Duţu 2018 p. 228, the last issue was 15 May 1940. So far, I reviewed the collection of the journal held at „Lucian Blaga” Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca, the last issue there being Anul VIII, No. 9 (15 April 1940).

April 1938. After he retired, he was listed as „founder” („fondator”). Tuşinschi’s work on it was favourably discussed in the local press²¹⁰. For the journal, the Cernăuţi Court of Appeal closely collaborated with the local bar association and the faculty of law at Cernăuţi University²¹¹. In his opening article, Tuşinschi mentions that studying the particular legal situation in Bukovina for the present and the future necessitated the publication²¹². Various issues were discussed in the journal by legal scholars, practitioners and authors from adjacent fields. It also published texts by young lawyers. Dimitrie Tuşinschi frequently contributed articles and book reviews, even after retiring 1938²¹³.

At the 15th anniversary celebrations of the Cernăuţi Court of Appeal on 29 September 1934, Dimitrie Tuşinschi gave a speech alongside Justice Minister Victor Antonescu and Labour Minister Ion Nistor. Both the ceremony and his address were widely covered, for example by „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, which printed a report on its front page and two following pages²¹⁴, and „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, which published Tuşinschi’s entire speech²¹⁵. On that occasion, numerous congratulatory letters arrived. Among the senders were Orest Baleanu – Tuşinschi’s classmate from Suceava, now a counsellor at the High Court of Cassation and Justice in Bucharest – as well as Constantin Isopescu-Grecul²¹⁶.

By the late 1930s, Tuşinschi’s son Constantin was a prosecutor in Cernăuţi and had authored numerous books on international history, law and politics, which – according to „Neues Wiener Journal” – made him known in Romania²¹⁷. In the 1930s, he and his wife Virginia (née Hoinic) lived with Leontine and Dimitrie Tuşinschi in the family’s Cernăuţi house, built for them around the early 1930s, informally called „Villa Leontine”²¹⁸. While Constantin had already contributed articles to „Pagini Juridice” as early as the first issue²¹⁹, he was listed as a member of the editorial board from the July 1936 edition. Justice Minister Valeriu Pop wrote a letter to the editors of „Pagini

²¹⁰ *Primpräsident Dr. Demeter Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 6 October 1935, p. 5.

²¹¹ Mircea Duţu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 220.

²¹² Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Cuvânt înainte*, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul I, No. 1, 1 May 1932. See also: Mircea Duţu, *Un secol de stat unitar ...*, p. 220.

²¹³ Dimitrie Tuşinschi, *Rezenzii*, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul VII, No. 8–9 (March–April 1939), p. 184.

²¹⁴ *15 Jahre Cernăuțier Oberlandesgericht*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 1 October 1934, p. 1–3.

²¹⁵ *15 Jahre Obergericht – Denkwürdige Rede des Primpräsidenten Dr. Demeter von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 4 October 1934, p. 6–7.

²¹⁶ Special issue of „Pagini Juridice”, Anul III, No. 3–4 (October–November 1934), p. 82.

²¹⁷ *Das Ausland über das neue Österreich*, „Neues Wiener Journal”, 20 October 1935, p. 21.

²¹⁸ As recounted in the family.

²¹⁹ *Crearea unei forţe armate internaţionale*, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul I, No. 1, p. 11–14; No. 8–9, p. 142–144.

Juridice” in 1936, expressing his favourable opinion of the journal²²⁰. Shortly afterward, Dimitrie Tuşinschi received the Grand Officer’s class of the Order of the Crown of Romania (*Ordinul Coroana României, Mare Ofiţer*), on which occasion the press referred to him in very positive terms and mentioned his importance in Bukovina society²²¹. That same year, as a veteran of WWI, Tuşinschi applied for and received the Austrian War Memorial medal (*Kriegserinnerungsmedaille*) without swords²²².



Fig. 3:

Dimitrie Tuşinschi around 1938, wearing the Order of the Crown of Romania, Grand Officer rank, and the Order of the Star of Romania, Commander rank²²³.

In 1935, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt” expressed the wish that Tuşinschi would hold his office for many years to come²²⁴. However, on 31 March 1938, at age 68, he asked to retire after reports emerged that the retirement age was to be lowered to 65 years for judges in his position. Along with him, several high-ranking judges retired for the same reason²²⁵. The press covered this in several articles, and it was mentioned that the public deplored his departure²²⁶. Anton Iliese argued that Tuşinschi

²²⁰ Scrisoarea d-lui Ministru al Justiţiei, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul V, No. 2 (15 Septembrie 1936), p. 37.

²²¹ For example: *Hohe Auszeichnung des Oberlandesgerichtspräsidenten Dr. v. Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 7 November 1936, p. 3. See also: „Monitorul Oficial”, 5 November 1936, p. 9137.

²²² AT-OeStA/Akt aus dem Bestand Kriegserinnerungsmedaille, Antrag Dr. D. Tuschinski, 14 November 1936.

²²³ Photo from: „Pagini Juridice”, Anul VI, No. 8–9 (March–April 1938).

²²⁴ *Oberlandesgerichtspräsident Dr. v. Tuşinschi – Zum 10-jährigen Dienstjubiläum*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 6 October 1935, p. 3.

²²⁵ *Oberpräsident von Tusinsch demissioniert*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 3 April 1938, p. 1–2.

²²⁶ For example: *Die Demission des Primpräsidenten der Curtea de Apel Dr. V. Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 5 April 1938.

was in very good physical and mental health and that the lowering of the retirement age should be reconsidered²²⁷. On 8 April, a telegram from king Carol II. addressed to Tuşinschi arrived at the Court of Appeal, thanking him for the assembly held on occasion of the promulgation of the new constitution²²⁸. Tuşinschi kept the telegram, and his family managed to preserve it throughout Socialist rule²²⁹. On 14 April 1938, a farewell banquet was held for Tuşinschi in Cernăuţi at Café Astoria with 150 invited guests, attended by „the entire judiciary” („die gesamte Richterschaft”) and numerous personalities from Bukovina, including the mayor of Cernăuţi, Colonel Ion Cantemir. The banquet and speeches there were covered in the press²³⁰.

After his retirement, Dimitrie Tuşinschi, along his wife Leontine, continued to be involved in Cernăuţi public life, for example in the voluntary rescue organization²³¹. In Summer of 1939, Leontine and Dimitrie travelled to Italy for a vacation with their son and daughter-in-law²³². In early 1940, they both donated money for the Romanian army's operational readiness²³³. After the annexation of northern Bukovina by the Soviet Union in 1940, the German-language press tradition breaks off, and press reports mentioning the Tuşinschi family become scarce. While Virginia and Constantin Tuşinschi fled to Bucharest, Leontine and Dimitrie stayed in their Cernăuţi house, where they were protected under the German-Soviet agreement to relocate ethnic Germans and their families along with certain belongings. Leontine had Austrian roots and was thus considered an ethnic German, which she had to prove with an „Ahnenpaß” (*genealogical passport*), still preserved within the family. On 30 October 1940, Leontine and Dimitrie Tuşinschi arrived in *Lager 98 Mittelsteine* with a train from Cernăuţi, along Dimitrie's cousin Mindora Moskwinski²³⁴. According to family accounts, life in the camp was very unpleasant. On 20 March 1941, a health check was performed for both Leontine and Dimitrie, which shows Leontine in poor health, while Dimitrie was fit for his age. Both stated they didn't wish to become German citizens²³⁵. The next day, it was elaborated that they both „pledge to Romanian ways” („bekennen sich zum Rumänentum”) and want to return to that country. On 24 June 1941 Leontine and Dimitrie Tuşinschi arrived in Suceava along with another person, most likely

²²⁷ Anton Iliese: *Iarăşi limita de vârstă*, „Pagini Juridice”, Anul VI, No. 8–9 (March–April 1938), p. 162–164.

²²⁸ S. M. König Carol an die Richterschaft, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 9 April 1938, p. 4.

²²⁹ In private possession within the family.

²³⁰ *Ein Richter – ein Mensch: Das gestrige Abschiedsbankett für Primpräsident Dr. von Tuşinschi*, „Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung”, 16 April 1938, p. 5.

²³¹ *Von der Cernăuţer Freiwilligen Rettungsgesellschaft*, „Czernowitzer Morgenblatt”, 5 May 1939, p. 3.

²³² Photo in the family archive: Leontine, Dimitrie and Constantin Tuşinschi in Pisa, dated 6 August 1939. A photo from 21 July 1939 shows Virginia and Constantin in Venice.

²³³ „Monitorul Oficial”, 3 April 1940, p. 1624.

²³⁴ German Federal Archive Bundesarchiv, Dokumente zur Umsiedlung 1940, BArch R 9361-IV/190993.

²³⁵ German Federal Archive Bundesarchiv, BArch (Slg. BDC), EWZ-Gesundheitskartei 342831 and 342822.

Mindora Moswinski²³⁶. While Virginia and Constantin Tușinski returned to Cernăuți in 1941 where Constantin resumed his duty as first prosecutor, Dimitrie's further fate during WWII requires further research. It is known that the entire family fled Bukovina in 1944 and settled in Transylvania²³⁷. On 30 April 1945, Dimitrie Tușinski was appointed supervising administrator („administratorul de supraveghere”) of the local People's Bank in Sighișoara („la Banca Poporului din Sighișoara”)²³⁸. The last years of Leontine and Dimitrie Tușinski's lives remain enigmatic. Apparently, according to stories recalled in the family, Leontine passed away before Dimitrie, and Dimitrie eventually lived in Brașov. They are both allegedly buried there. The last known photo of Dimitrie shows him on 14 August 1950, surrounded by Virginia and Constantin along with their sons Paul (13 August 1945 – 24 August 2009) and Petru (21 December 1947 – 13 August 1994) on occasion of Paul's 5th birthday, which had been the day before²³⁹. Dimitrie's date of death is currently unknown to me. Post-WWII, Constantin Tușinski lived in Sighișoara and was eventually no longer serving as a prosecutor, but worked as an attorney and lived in very modest financial circumstances. From the 1960s to the 1980s, Constantin wrote German-language plays for amateur ensembles that were published in Romania and were performed by various theatre troupes²⁴⁰. Virginia Tușinski passed away in Sighișoara on 5 April 1981, and Constantin in the same town on 26 October 1984²⁴¹.



Fig. 4:

14 August 1950 –
Currently, the last
known photo of
Dimitrie Tușinski
(right), surrounded by
(from left to right):
Paul, Constantin, Petru,
Virginia Tușinski²⁴².

²³⁶ *Alte două transporturi de repatriați sosite în Bucovina*, „Universul”, 1 July 1941, p. 6.

²³⁷ As recalled to me by Constantin's son Paul and several of Constantin's friends.

²³⁸ „Monitorul Oficial”, 28 May 1945, p. 4403.

²³⁹ Photo in the family archive, date in Constantin's handwriting on the reverse.

²⁴⁰ Alexander Tuschinski, *Constantin Ritter von Tuschinski – Biography*, in vol. *European Union, State Parties and Political Transformations – Collected Works 1929–1942*, eds: Constantin Ritter von Tuschinski / Constantin D. Tușinski, Alexander Tuschinski, Norderstedt, Books on Demand, 2024.

²⁴¹ Death certificates in the family archive.

²⁴² From the family archive.

Conclusion and outlook

Dimitrie Tuşinschi's life was closely linked to the history of Northern Bukovina, and researching his biography reveals numerous facets that warrant further research. Duţu regards the Cernăuţi Court of Appeal as an example of how the legal sphere managed to act in a unified manner towards the goal of unification²⁴³. Further analysis of Tuşinschi's activities and social circles can help increase the understanding of how the legal system in Bukovina and its protagonists were interwoven with society. Of particular interest could be Tuşinschi's activities regarding *Nachrichtenstelle Czernowitz* in 1917/18, where the surviving files paint a vivid picture of the situation in WWI Bukovina and could be used for a multitude of research.

²⁴³ Mircea Duţu, *Un secol de stat unitar* ..., p. 238-239.