

INDIGENOUS AND EXOTIC PLANTS IN EARLY MODERN ROMANIAN PUBLIC PARKS. ORNAMENTAL VERSUS UTILITARIAN

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Abstract

By the mid and late 19th century, Romanian municipalities from south and east of the Carpathians began to modernize and beautify the cities according to Western models; particularly, by creating public parks similar to the ones designed in European capital cities such as: Paris, Vienna, London, Berlin, Budapest or Rome. Today, many aspects still remain unclear concerning the planting schemes and the plants used to decorate these early modern green public (as well as private) spaces in Romania, and one such aspect refers to the use of indigenous versus exotic plants, as well as ornamental species versus utilitarian ones. To this end, the following paper will look into Romanian public park history in order to illustrate how planting schemes and compositions were designed and indigenous/exotic and/or ornamental/utilitarian species were used in these new and modern public spaces. The research is based on archival documentation, bibliographical, and in situ research and highlights historic (19th and early 20th century) planting schemes, models for the planting of public spaces, species used and reasons for using them.

Key words: garden history, public parks, indigenous, exotic varieties, plant collections.

INTRODUCTION

The choice of plant *palettes* for public parks, private gardens, and different public areas was never arbitrary. Whether it was used for aesthetic reasons (eg. visual effects), educational purposes (Debié, 1992 and Conway, 1996), served as a specific background for certain activities, or was even used in an assumed role to awaken and maintain nationalistic feelings (Panzini, 2015), vegetation has always been the main component of a park. Different countries and regions throughout Europe and North America had different approaches to exotic and indigenous, respectively ornamental and utilitarian species and their use in garden and park design (see Debié, 1992; Conway, 1996; Cranz, 1989; Hajós, 2007; Taylor, 2006, etc.).

The following chapters will briefly look into European and North American garden histories, particularly into vegetation use for public park design, and afterwards focus on how, during the mid- and late 19th century and the early 20th century, private gardens and especially public parks from Romania (south and east of the Carpathians) were designed and planted, with

what particular exotic or indigenous, ornamental or utilitarian species, and why were such species used.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is based on a research of historic materials found in both public and private archives and libraries from Romania (Bucharest, Iași, Craiova, Pitești, Târgu Jiu, Bacău, Buzău, Brașov etc.) and abroad (British Library - London, UK; École nationale supérieure de paysage de Versailles - Versailles, France; Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma - Rome, Italy and Technische Universität Berlin - Berlin, Germany); comparisons and overlapping of archival and contemporary plans and photographs; *in situ* visual and comparative research, as well as plant measurements, in several historic public parks and private gardens located in the south and east regions of the Carpathians.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Park Movement - a summary of planting designs in public park history

In the 19th century, in the early stages of the development of the *Park Movement* phenomenon, the vegetation in public parks was chosen primarily for economic and educational reasons. From an educational point of view, the appearance of public parks coincides with the appearance of (public) botanical gardens - planted spaces with a scientific and educational assumed role. The use of flowering plants, flower beds and borders, and exotic species brought from all over the world matched with the idea of educating the lower classes of society, both in botanical gardens and in some specially designed areas of public parks (see Cranz, 1989). Flower beds, borders, and *arboretums* will first appear in Great Britain, both to create a varied décor but especially to educate people about nature and the origins of some species (Debié; 1992; Conway, 1996; Cranz, 1989; Shoemaker, 2001). Later, this model will be adopted in most public parks on the European and North American continents. The art of plant compositions will be perfected towards the end of the 19th century under the direct guidance of Adolphe Alphand and Édouard André in Paris (Shoemaker, 2001).

On the other hand, an attempt was made to preserve, as much as possible, the specimens of trees that already existed on the lands transformed into public parks. Also, most of the planted specimens of trees and shrubs were not exotic species but native species and were procured from the nearest nurseries and/or transplanted from the nearby forests and fields - thereby contributing to the reduction of the costs necessary to create parks. Moreover, the first public parks built in Great Britain or in German-speaking countries were devoid of rich compositions of trees and shrubs (André, 1879). On the one hand, the relatively small number of tall vegetation meant lower costs of design execution and maintenance, and on the other, sunny and warm days being fewer compared to cloudy and cold ones favoured lawns to the detriment of massive tree compositions (Debié; 1992; Cranz, 1989). In other countries located in the centre and especially in the south of the European continent, the climatic conditions will force the authorities to plant more trees than to sod lawns (Debié; 1992; Cranz, 1989; Conway, 1996). In France, however, the reasons behind the planting of quite large massifs of trees and

shrubs were due to several factors related to political desire, the vision of specialists, etc. (Mexi, 2023).

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the vegetation chosen for public parks would begin to be increasingly influenced by the functional zoning of the parks. In this sense, the choice of species will be made from now on especially according to the quantity and quality of the shade it offered, its resistance to stress factors, vigor, life span, and growth rate, and less according to aesthetic considerations (Debié; 1992; Cranz, 1989; Conway, 1996; Mexi, 2023). The species so used will create the framework and context for games and team sports, children's playgrounds, parade and show areas, cycling and carriage areas, etc. (Cranz, 1989; Conway, 1991; Mexi, 2023).

Later, in the first half of the 20th century, the origin of the species used in public parks will often also serve a political role in shaping a nationalist ideology. In this regard, we will list the almost exclusively indigenous plant *palette* used by Bauer in the remodelling project for Schiller Park in Berlin; the flower gardens in the parks of Holland; palm trees (*Phoenix* sp.), umbrella pines (*Pinus pinea*) and holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) in gardens and townscapes in Italy, plane trees (*Platanus* sp.) in parks and townscapes in most cities in Great Britain; or even the exotic trees that created a Canadian décor in some public parks in Paris (Debié, 1992).

For example, in the United Kingdom, and especially in London, in the 19th century, a real fashion for urban alignments with plane trees developed. The fashion for plane trees will not only be felt in the Kingdom but also across the English Channel, where the French will prefer the geometric trimming of the canopies, thus recalling the geometric shapes of the vegetation in the most famous historic gardens in the Hexagon (André, 1879). The same fashion of plane trees will be taken over in the German-speaking space and, especially, in Vienna, as well as in Italy, but to a lesser extent (Cassetti and Fagiolo, 2003). In the peninsula, the main species to be used will be the rock oak (*Quercus frainetto*), the umbrella pine (*Pinus pinea*) and the palm (*Phoenix* sp.). These species will be used to support a nationalist discourse whose solid foundations were historic relations to the

Roman Empire (Panzini, 2015 and André, 1879). In the German-speaking space, the use of a predominantly indigenous plant *palette* was also part of a nationalist discourse, and in France, North American tree species will support the colonialist discourse (Panzini, 2015; Mexi, 2023).

Abroad, specialists who designed public parks made several experiments to discover which the most suitable plants would be used in their settings, having the goal to reduce transport and maintenance costs and to create local identities (Mexi, 2023). From Lisbon to Budapest, but especially in Great Britain and France, numerous lists of plant species adapted to their use in public parks have been made (Rodrigues, 2017; Hajós, 2007; Conway, 1991; André, 1879). Even when such studies were not carried out by the designers of the parks, they often kept the number of species and specimens they had used or were going to use centralized in tables (Tate, 2001).

Public parks and planting schemes in Romania

"Given the origin of the word tulip from the Turkish-Persian "lâle", in an era when this flower entered the political, symbolic, and decorative life of the Ottoman Empire, we believe that the (Romanian) pilgrim boyars will have brought some bulbs for their gardens as well. [...] Among the bulbs brought from the Ottoman Empire are veiled hyacinths, «beaten» tulips, little red or purple veiled *Erysimum*, «royal flowers» or carnations, «rujela» (unidentified species), «tiparoju» (unidentified species), curly geraniums, violets, rosemary, and many more. [...] We find oleanders and jasmines brought from the East, flowers from the Americas, or from different parts of Europe, but with Latin names. The geraniums, so present, are inventoried with different varieties and are called «pelarioane». When do these plants start to be cultivated, and when do they get the name they are known by today?" (Vintilă-Ghițulescu, 2015, p. 351).

As shown in the previous quote, exotic plants were not alien to private manor or castle gardens. Whether it's exotic flowers, flowering and fragrant shrubs and vines, or even special trees such as *Pterocarya fraxinifolia* (Cantacuzino estate in Florești, Prahova County) or *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* (Peleş

Castle in Sinaia, Prahova County), 17th, 18th, and 19th century private gardens did not lack exotic plant collections. With few exceptions, as can be easily seen from archival photographs or from the accounts of various foreign travellers in the Romanian countries (Stan and Mexi, 2017), these gardens were not laid out by specialists or, in any case, the patrons' taste for plant clusters (Vintilă-Ghițulescu, 2015), overlapped with a coherent structure that could have been imagined by professional gardeners, landscape gardeners, or architects. We are not certain when exactly popular/local plant names such as «pelarioane», «invoalte» tulips etc. or 19th century scientific plant names used in archival documents changed (Nagy, 2013) because some of them were used even in the late 20th century official documents now found in public and private archives (e.g. *Accacia julibrissin* - probably *Albizia julibrissin*, *Robinia psudaocacia* - *Robinia pseudoacacia*; *Oxyacantha coccinea* - probably *Pyracantha coccinea*; *Glycinea apios sinensis* - probably *Wisteria sinensis*, «Tufan» - probably *Quercus pubescens*; «cinjer» (unidentified species); «moscherean» (unidentified species, possibly *Fraxinus ornus* - mojdrean), «meschiak» (unidentified species, probably *Betula* sp., etc. (see ANIC, DMBAN, SJAN Iași, SJAN Dolj, SJAN Gorj, SJAN Argeș, SJAN Bacău).

However, it is possible to observe an approach of a specialized vocabulary to the local vocabulary in terms of plant species (e.g. «Salkim» - *salcâm* - *Robinia pseudoaccacia*, «hallun» - *alun* - *Corylus avellana*, «karpin» - *carpen* - *Carpinus* sp., «liliah» - *lilic* - *Syringa* sp., «nutsch» - *nuc* - *Juglans* sp., «skorush sylbatirchi» - *scoruș sălbatic* - *Sorbus* sp., «hallina alba» - *cătina alba* - *Hippophae rhamnoides*, «plute ku frunze mare argintiu» - *plute cu frunze mari și argintii* - probably *Populus alba*), especially in the case of those foreign specialists invited from abroad to design private gardens as well as public parks. For example, in the case of the Kiseleff and Cișmigiu gardens in Bucharest, landscape gardener Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Meyer, in the numerous lists of plants he made in order to plant both public parks, he alternately uses the scientific names of the era (e.g. *Vitis hederacea* or *Hedera quinquefolia* - today *Parthenocissus*

quinquefolia; *Isulicia adhadole* - unidentified species), French descriptions for plants (e.g. *Plantes grimpantes, plantes toujours verts*, etc.) or Romanian or Romanianized names (e.g. «Castani adevărați» - "True chestnuts", probably *Aesculus hippocastanum*, «Plute ku frunse mare argintă» - probably *Populus alba/Populus* sp., «Kallin» - probably *Viburnum opulus*, «Lemkinesk» - probably *Ligustrum vulgare/Ligustrum* sp., etc.) (Mexi et al., 2018). Regardless of the names used to describe the plants found in gardens and parks or those used to order and buy different species and varieties for new planted spaces, there is a growing appetite for the use of exotic vegetation, especially starting with the mid- 19th century. We can see that if by the middle of the 19th century there were only a few species of exotic trees and shrubs that "timidly" made their appearance in private gardens and public parks in Bucharest, Iași, Craiova and other important cities, planted spaces being designed particularly with indigenous utilitarian species of trees and vines (e.g. *Juglans, Prunus* sp., *Malus* sp., *Vitis*) and ornamental species of shrubs and flowers (e.g. *Rosa* sp., *Syringa, Narcissus, Rudbeckia* etc.), by the end of the century and in the first decades of the 20th century, the archival plant lists (corroborated with the species still found *in situ* today) show an increasing interest in bringing exotic species, particularly ornamental, into public parks and private gardens alike.

Referring exclusively to trees, among the most common exotic species used in this period of time (roughly mid-19th and early 20th centuries) we find, first of all, plane trees (*Platanus* sp.) and chestnuts (especially *Aesculus hippocastanum*), and then the bog cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*), Japanese acacias (*Sophora japonica*), dogwood (*Celtis occidentalis* and respectively, *Celtis australis*), catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides* – in the 19th century, *Bignonia catalpa*) etc.

Along with all these exotic species we find many varieties such as: chestnuts with red flowers (*Aesculus × carnea*) or with variegated leaves (*Aesculus hippocastanum* f. *variegata*), beeches with red leaves (*Fagus purpurea*), and pendulous ash trees, with golden or bicolor leaves (*Fraxinus pendula, Fraxinus aurea*, etc.) etc. Among the rarities we mention tulip trees

(*Liriodendron tulipifera* - mentioned on the lists of planting materials for the Kiseleff Public Garden in Bucharest and the Bibescu Park in Craiova), maclura (*Maclura aurantiaca*), ziziphus (*Zyziphus paliurus*, according to the archival documents) and others. Among the plant species that do not define trees, but which were often found in private gardens and public parks, we particularly mention wisteria (*Wisteria chinensis*), viburnum (*Viburnum* sp.), hydrangeas (*Hydrangea hortensis*), etc. (Mexi et al., 2018; ANIC; SJAN Dolj; SJAN Gorj; SJAN Iași).

Regarding chestnuts and especially plane trees, they almost represent a leitmotif both for private gardens and for public parks designed in the mid- and late 19th century and in the first two decades of the 20th century. This fact is not surprising if we take into account that the fashion for planting plane trees started in London in the 19th century, continued to Paris and then spread to all corners of Europe, defining historic and nowadays urban landscapes such as the ones of the capital city of the United Kingdom, in Paris, Rome, Vienna and so on. Although, if we look carefully at the collections of plants in parks and gardens today, it may be difficult to believe that these trees were indispensable in the landscaping of past centuries, the research of archival documents points to the contrary. In Romania, a relevant example in this sense is represented by the Kiseleff Garden, which currently has no plane trees, but where, in 1849, 40 such trees were to be planted (ANIC, DMBAN, and Mexi et al., 2018). This fact can be caused by several situations that have not yet been identified, but which can be represented by the non-acclimatization of the trees (however unlikely), their cutting over time (or in the 1930s, when the Kiseleff Garden was radically transformed after a project by Friedrich Rebhuhn), or even the fact that they may have never been actually brought and planted in this public park (Mexi, 2023; Mexi and Zaharia, 2020).

Thanks to an extensive research carried out at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries by the academician Simion Florea Marian (Popa Marian, 2008 and 2010), it is possible to identify numerous species known and used in an extensive area that includes the current territory of Romania, the whole of Bessarabia, the north

of Bucovina, eastern Hungary and northern Bulgaria. Studying only the trees for the moment, upon a careful analysis of the academician's research it can be observed that, if for a number of exotic species such as laurel, anise, lemons, etc. there were numerous legends and culinary or medical recipes that were produced with the help of some of their components (Popa Marian, 2008 and 2010), other exotic species are mentioned in passing or not mentioned at all. This detail suggests that they were either not known to the public or had been introduced much too recently and not enough time had passed for them to be carefully studied and passed through the filter of the collective imagination, as in the case of the aforementioned species. An additional argument in this equation is also represented by the fact that certain trees from which fruit, leaves, flowers, etc. were procured, even if they were not acclimatized in this geographical area, they were mentioned in legends and/or recipes, or they were known to the public through international or regional commerce (Iacob, 2012; Mexi, 2023). This fact suggests that, regardless of whether they were in the studied territory or not, they were known by the population. As there is no such information about some of the tree species previously mentioned, it can be argued that they either had not been introduced yet or had been acclimatized too recently.

Another interesting discussion refers to the choice of indigenous or exotic plant species, but already acclimatized for a good period of time in the Romanian landscape, which were to decorate public parks, but also urban alignments of trees. First of all, we emphasize the fact that there were several fashions regarding the choice of the predominant species used in urban planning and planting. These were initially influenced by European models, and then by local specificities, as well as by the latest research in the field of horticulture and urban arboriculture. From a chronological point of view, several historical periods that define the cityscape of Bucharest (the best documented city) can be noted in the researched documentation - periods that are generally also valid for other localities and geographical areas of the country (Mexi, 2019 and 2023). Three historical stages, relevant to this paper, will be

presented at this point, emphasizing the vegetal (tree) *palette* used specifically in the urban landscape, inside or outside public parks:

Period I (1800-1840/45)

Dominant species: linden (*Tilia* sp. - usually *Tilia tomentosa*), acacia (*Robina pseudoacacia*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp. - generally *Fraxinus excelsior*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.).

Other species: plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), chestnuts (*Aesculus* sp., particularly *Aesculus hippocastanum*), carob (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), different species of maple trees (*Acer* sp.), oaks (*Quercus* sp. - usually *Quercus robur* or *Quercus cerris*), poplar (*Populus* sp. - generally *Populus nigra 'Fastigiata'*) and fruit tree species such as walnuts (*Juglans* sp. - usually *Juglans regia*), apples (*Malus domestica* - various varieties), plums (*Prunus domestica* - various varieties) etc.

Also, we cannot forget the grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*) - an almost ubiquitous species in the landscape of Romanian cities, as the following quote underlines: "Vineyards, moreover, are mentioned in many documents as: a place to walk, an oasis of coolness, a place of shelter in times of rest, a place of refuge during epidemics." (Vintilă-Ghițulescu, 2015, p. 370 and Chiodaru et al., 1980, p. 157).

Period II (1845/50-1900)

Dominant species: linden (*Tilia* sp. - usually *Tilia tomentosa*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp. - generally *Fraxinus excelsior*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), poplar (*Populus* sp. - generally *Populus nigra 'Italica'*), plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), chestnuts (*Aesculus* sp.). Other species: carob (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), various species of maples (*Acer* sp.), oaks (*Quercus* sp. - usually *Quercus robur* or *Quercus cerris*), bog cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), thuja (*Thuja* sp.), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Japanese acacia (*Sophora japonica*), etc. and fruit tree species such as those previously mentioned. See, for example, Figures 1, 2 and 4. The vine remains a leitmotif for many Romanian cities, but towards the end of the century, especially in Bucharest, but also in other parts of the country, it will disappear as a result of *phylloxera* attacks. Also, during this period, a significant increase in urban mulberry (*Morus* sp.) plantations can be observed - a direct

consequence of the development of the silkworm industry (ANIC-REAZ).

In this period it is noted that, in addition to various exotic species used to create different ambiances or interesting plant compositions to highlight a certain statue or perspective, the general plant composition will be mostly based on a selection of indigenous plants that will be procured from nurseries near the gardens or will be brought from the forests in the vicinity of the cities. Sometimes, as in the case of the Cișmigiu Garden, this aspect will be emphasized by its creator himself, landscape gardener Carl Meyer (ANIC-REAZ). Other times, this aspect can be observed after consulting and analysing the lists of plants, as is the case for the Kiseleff and Cișmigiu Gardens, Bibescu Park (ANIC, SJAN Dolj and Mexi et al., 2018) and/or by analysing archival images.

Another important observation refers to the increasingly prominent presence of trees such as plane trees, elms and poplars. If we already discussed plane trees earlier, more observations can be made regarding elms, but especially poplars. Regarding the first species, it was found in sufficiently large quantities both in the forests near most cities, but also, as can be seen from the plant lists still found today in various archives and nurseries of the time (Mexi et al., 2018). Regarding poplars, it is interesting how they were, in a first phase, used by landscape gardeners like Carl Meyer to highlight, most likely after the model found at the Volskgarten (Vienna) (Hajós, 2007), different components of his parks. A substitute for the much better known cypress (Hajós, 2007; Taylor, 2006; Attlee, 2006; Shepperd and Jellicoe, 1986), this tree species has been extensively used in to emphasize various points of interest. However, the poplar will start to be used more and more towards the end of the 19th century and in the 20th century, exactly at the time when, in Rome, large alignments of pines (*Pinus pinea*), oaks (*Quercus ilex*), palms (especially the genus *Pheonix*), as well as cypresses (*Chamaecyparis* sp.) - species which emphasized an important ideological and political message (Panzini, 2015) - were planted. We could speculate - in

the absence of clear evidence - that the use of poplars as a substitute for cypresses (and at the same time one of the species often found in wetland areas of cities) can be seen as an attempt to emphasize and legitimize the Latinity of the Romanians - Latinity that is part of the broad discourse of national affirmation from that period (Moldovan, 2013).

Period III (1900-1930/40)

Dominant species: linden (*Tilia* sp. - usually *Tilia tomentosa*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp. - generally *Fraxinus excelsior*), poplar (*Populus* sp. - generally *Populus nigra* 'Italica'), mulberry (*Morus* sp. - especially *Morus alba*), plane trees (*Platanus acerifolia*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), thuja (*Thuja* sp.), bog cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), dogwood (*Celtis* sp. - generally *Cetis occidentalis*). See, for example, Figures 3, 5 and 6.

Other species: carob (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), various species of maples (*Acer* sp.), oaks (*Quercus* sp. - usually *Quercus robur*, *Quercus cerris*, and more recently *Quercus rubra*), willow (*Salix* sp. - generally *Salix alba*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), magnolias (*Magnolia* sp.), pines (*Pinus* sp. - usually *Pinus nigra*), catalpa (*Catalpa* sp.), chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) etc.

During this period we witness an extremely sudden decrease in the use of elms as a result of an epidemic that swept across Europe and devastated all species of elms (*Ulmus* sp.). The famous landscape gardeners Friedrich Rebhuhn also tells about the amplitude of this epidemic in an article from June 1927:

“In all forests and parks, not only in Romania, but throughout Europe, a disease called «the death of elms» struck this species. This disease, which first appeared in the Netherlands, then spread everywhere, slowly killing almost all the elm trees. All attempts to find a means of combating this disease have yielded no results. Three quarters of the old trees in Cișmigiu are elms, all between 60-100 years old, and which are dying partly due to old age, partly due to the disease mentioned above.” (ANIC)

Bucarest le 13 Janvier 1848

Liste

des plants et arbustes nécessaires au jardin public de Kiseleff

situé sur la place de la Liberté à Bucharest

Les arbres et arbustes ci-dessous sont à fournir d'après les instructions enjointes jusqu'à présent et autres qui pourront être publiées dans le premier mois du mois d'avril prochain par le directeur des jardins publics à Bucharest.

A. Arbustes

1 arb. Pyramide blanche	2 arb. Laurier rose
2 arb. Laurier rose	4 arb. Laurier de Hollande
2 arb. Laurier rose	2 arb. Magnolia grandiflora
2 arb. Laurier rose	2 arb. Magnolia speciosa
2 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Magnolia speciosa
2 arb. Laurier rose	6 arb. Propaguleux rouge persane
1 arb. Laurier rose	6 arb. Propaguleux rouge persane
1 arb. Laurier rose	6 arb. Propaguleux rouge persane
1 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Camérisse
1 arb. Laurier rose	400 arb. Nœlf. bicolor macis
1 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Nœlf. bicolor macis
1 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Nœlf. bicolor macis
1 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Nœlf. bicolor macis
1 arb. Laurier rose	1 arb. Nœlf. bicolor macis

B. Groseilles, Rubus, etc.

8 arb. Rubus bicolor	1 arb. Rubus bicolor
1 arb. Rubus bicolor	1 arb. Rubus bicolor
1 arb. Rubus bicolor	1 arb. Rubus bicolor
1 arb. Rubus bicolor	1 arb. Rubus bicolor

Figure 1. List of plants requested for the planting design of Kiseleff Garden in Bucharest, 1848 (ANIC)

B

C. Arbres des Jardins du pays

300 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 300 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 300 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 400 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 100 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 300 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 200 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 100 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 200 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre
 300 Arbre de 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 diamètre

3150 en somme C.

Les arbres, arbustes etc. sont à fournir d'après les instructions enjointes jusqu'à présent et autres qui pourront être publiées dans le premier mois du mois d'avril prochain par le directeur des jardins publics à Bucharest.

E. Negre

Bucarest le 1 Mars 1848

Figure 2. Quantities and special requests for the plants needed for the planting of Kiseleff Garden in Bucharest, 1848 (ANIC)



Figure 3. Planting designs in public parks - Turnu Severin, 1902 (arh. M. Ghigeanu private collection)

Liste

des arbres et arbustes en bois nécessaires au jardin public de Cismigiu dans la 1^{re} moitié de l'année 1850

Arbres	Diamètre	3-4	1 1/2-2 1/2	1/2-1
1000	1000			
1000	1000			
100	100			
400	400			
1000	1500			
100	600			
100	500			
100	600			
100	300			
100	300			
200	1000			
100	1500			
50	50			
50	50			
200	1600			
300	300			
2400	2400			
600	600			
2800	2800			
800	800			
600	600			
3000	3000			
1000	1000			
400	400			
1800	1800			
Somme	30000	ou	29000	11.200-15900

Figure 4. List of trees and shrubs needed for the planting of Cismigiu Gardens in Bucharest, 1850 (ANIC)

FOAIE DE EVALUATIE No. 1.

Pentru lucrari de Intreprinderi prin limitate publica sau ternele de buna voie, dupa expresa autorizatiune.

Specificarea lucrării:

furnitura de arbori p. arbori de van de papaverina, Corbule, Tulea, Robinia, la Jucur, lauzi Gajana (Jaltu)

Prețul lucrării după cotele de autorizată nr. 10	Prețul lucrării prin limitate publică sau ternele de bună voie
L.1 B. L.1 B.	L.1 B. L.1 B.
10955.50 848	
Total	10955.50

Valoarea lucrării executată și a materialelor aprovisionate până la finele anului 1922

Valoarea acestui fol de evaluatie fără retinere 8483

Indicarea lucrărilor	CANTITATI	Prețul unitar după date		VALOAREA	
		Dupe date	Dupe contract	Lat B.	Lat B.
Arbori picei	5000	39/100	150		
Arbori albi - la 100m	3000	49/100	112		
Arbori pedunculati (la 100m)	13000	20/100	260		
Arbori (la 100m)	17000	19/100	204		
Arbori piceo-platanari	3000	20/100	60		
Arbori de copacina	5000	10/100	50		
Arbori de tineret	100	30/100	30		
Arbori de tineret	1000	12/100	120		
Arbori de tineret	100	120/100	120		
Arbori de tineret	100	80/100	80		
Arbori de tineret	1000	30/100	300		

De transportat 2210

Total general de transportat 8483

Figure 5. List of plants requested for the planting of Romanescu Park in Craiova from the Count Taven Lubrinsky's nurseries (SJAN Dolj)

Numere	Specii	Numere	Specii	Numere	Specii	Numere	Specii
1	Arbori picei	2	Arbori albi	3	Arbori pedunculati	4	Arbori (la 100m)
5	Arbori piceo-platanari	6	Arbori de copacina	7	Arbori de tineret	8	Arbori de tineret
9	Arbori de tineret	10	Arbori de tineret	11	Arbori de tineret	12	Arbori de tineret
13	Arbori de tineret	14	Arbori de tineret	15	Arbori de tineret	16	Arbori de tineret
17	Arbori de tineret	18	Arbori de tineret	19	Arbori de tineret	20	Arbori de tineret
21	Arbori de tineret	22	Arbori de tineret	23	Arbori de tineret	24	Arbori de tineret
25	Arbori de tineret	26	Arbori de tineret	27	Arbori de tineret	28	Arbori de tineret
29	Arbori de tineret	30	Arbori de tineret	31	Arbori de tineret	32	Arbori de tineret
33	Arbori de tineret	34	Arbori de tineret	35	Arbori de tineret	36	Arbori de tineret
37	Arbori de tineret	38	Arbori de tineret	39	Arbori de tineret	40	Arbori de tineret
41	Arbori de tineret	42	Arbori de tineret	43	Arbori de tineret	44	Arbori de tineret
45	Arbori de tineret	46	Arbori de tineret	47	Arbori de tineret	48	Arbori de tineret
49	Arbori de tineret	50	Arbori de tineret	51	Arbori de tineret	52	Arbori de tineret
53	Arbori de tineret	54	Arbori de tineret	55	Arbori de tineret	56	Arbori de tineret
57	Arbori de tineret	58	Arbori de tineret	59	Arbori de tineret	60	Arbori de tineret
61	Arbori de tineret	62	Arbori de tineret	63	Arbori de tineret	64	Arbori de tineret
65	Arbori de tineret	66	Arbori de tineret	67	Arbori de tineret	68	Arbori de tineret
69	Arbori de tineret	70	Arbori de tineret	71	Arbori de tineret	72	Arbori de tineret
73	Arbori de tineret	74	Arbori de tineret	75	Arbori de tineret	76	Arbori de tineret
77	Arbori de tineret	78	Arbori de tineret	79	Arbori de tineret	80	Arbori de tineret
81	Arbori de tineret	82	Arbori de tineret	83	Arbori de tineret	84	Arbori de tineret
85	Arbori de tineret	86	Arbori de tineret	87	Arbori de tineret	88	Arbori de tineret
89	Arbori de tineret	90	Arbori de tineret	91	Arbori de tineret	92	Arbori de tineret
93	Arbori de tineret	94	Arbori de tineret	95	Arbori de tineret	96	Arbori de tineret
97	Arbori de tineret	98	Arbori de tineret	99	Arbori de tineret	100	Arbori de tineret

Figure 6. Lists of plants proposed by Fr. Rebhuhn to be planted in public parks and along avenues, undated (ANIC)

CONCLUSIONS

As can be seen, in Romania, the first public parks will represent a continuous horticultural experiment. Unlike countries in the West, where the choice of species depended so much on the (1) physical criteria of the land, (2) on the colour and ambience they created, but also on the (3) message they conveyed, the selection of plants that were to be used in private gardens, but especially in public parks, in Romania will take into account the first two criteria mentioned above and very rarely the third. Often the landscape and horticultural compositions will represent copies of the models already used in Western Europe or North America. Following the Western model, foreign specialists, employed by the municipality (or third parties) to design parks and gardens, will try to use both native and exotic species (however mostly ornamental and not utilitarian), varieties or cultivars. For example, for the planting of the Cișmigiu and Kiseleff gardens, Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Meyer will create several order lists by which he will request that as many plants as possible be brought to the two Bucharest public parks from the forests in the vicinity of the city and from nurseries inside the city area or nearby, specifying at the same time the quality index that the chosen plants had to meet, as well as the required number of threads/roots/cuttings/bare-rooted or potted plants (ANIC and Mexi et al., 2018). The same thing happened not only in Bucharest, but also in Iași, Craiova, Târgu Jiu, Câmpulung, Buzău etc. (SJAN Gorj, SJAN Dolj, SJAN Iași, SJAN Argeș, SJAN Buzău etc.).

Specialists who came to create public parks in different cities of the country checked the land topography, the quality of the soil, the speed of the water flow etc., before deciding the species of plants based on their ornamental characteristics – as happened, for example, in the case of parks such as the Cișmigiu Garden in Bucharest or the Bibescu Park in Craiova (Redont, 1904; Mexi et al., 2018; Mexi and Culescu, 2018). However, the quality of the planting material, the workers (usually unqualified), poor maintenance, successive redesign interventions, etc. contributed to the fact that only a part of the plant components from the original designs still exist today. This makes those surviving species - almost

exclusively represented by trees - to require special attention, especially because certain tree species are no longer produced in nurseries (Mexi and Culescu, 2018).

But referring back to the horticultural experiment, many species of those brought by Meyer, Redont or others will not survive in the city. Their disappearance was caused either by pedo-climatic conditions, different from those of the main (specific) environment (different from the original climate) from which certain exotic species were brought, by local diseases and pests or by those that affected several regions on the European continent, or even by poor local maintenance (ANIC; Mexi and Zaharia, 2020). From the information discovered up to this point, the first specialized study that showed which species could be planted in various areas: urban and rural environments in Romania was carried out in 1957 by the landscape gardener Friedrich Rebhuhn (ANIC; Mexi and Zaharia, 2020). It should be noted that this study, carried out almost a century ago, is no longer valid today as some species have disappeared or are not found in nurseries anymore, the environment, weather, legislation, as well as urban and rural images have changed over time and Rebhuhn's research should thus be revised, corrected and supplemented (Mexi and Zaharia, 2020).

Before concluding the discussion regarding the use of exotic and local, ornamental and utilitarian vegetation, it must be noted that planting was usually the last great work in the construction of a (public) park. Precisely for this reason, sometimes, due to the necessity to inaugurate public parks at a certain well-established moment in time, it happens that the plantations, especially those composed of trees and shrubs, were made only with cut plants. Such a relevant example is Bibescu Park, for the inauguration of which the prefects of the neighbouring counties will be requested by the mayor of Craiova to send cut trees to be planted in the park: "so for now (n.n. 1903) we want to replace the future plantation with an improvised one, of the same appearance." (SJAN Dolj).

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