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# CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF ROMANIA

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# MONETARY EMISSION AND CIRCULATION ON ROMANIA'S TERRITORY FROM ANCIENT TIMES UP TO 1859

## 7<sup>th</sup> — 1<sup>st</sup> Centuries

- ca. 460 B.C. Emission of archaic drachm of the town of Histria, the oldest monetary issue on the territory of Romania. These autonomous monetary emissions will go on till the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.
- ca. 357 — ca. 200 B.C. Circulation of coins emitted by Philip II and Alexander the Great, kings of Macedonia, by Lysimachos, king of Thracia, and by Seleucos, the ruler of the Seleucid kingdom. Circulation of coins of Philip II and Alexander the Great types (posthumous issues)
- ca. 350 B.C. Emission of the drachm of the town of Callatis. These autonomous monetary emissions will go on till the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.
- ca. 300 B.C. — ca. 100 B.C. Monetary emissions of the Geto-Dacian tribes.
- ca. 280 — ca. 250 B.C. The first emissions of gold staters of the cities of Histria and Callatis.
- ca. 250 B.C. The beginning of autonomous monetary emissions of the Greek colony of Tomis, which will go on till the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.
- III<sup>rd</sup> c. (the end) — II<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. Monetary emissions of the Scythian kings in Dobruja.
- II<sup>nd</sup> c. — 1<sup>st</sup> c.B.C. Circulation of drachms emitted by the cities of Apollonia and Dyrhachlum.
- 158 B.C. — 1<sup>st</sup> c. (the beginning) B.C. Circulation of tetra-drachms of the region Macedonia Prima.
- 146 B.C. — 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C. Circulation of tetradrachms of the Greek city of Thasos.
- II<sup>nd</sup> c. (the end) — 1<sup>st</sup> c.B.C. Circulation of the Roman denars emitted during the Republic.
- 1<sup>st</sup> c. (the beginning). Emission of gold staters of Lysimachos type at Histria, Tomis and Callatis.

ca. 40 B.C. Emission of gold Dacian staters of keoson type.

1<sup>st</sup> c.B.C. (the end). The autonomous monetary emissions of the towns of Histria, Tomis and Callatis come to an end.

27 B.C. Penetration of the Roman imperial coins; they will circulate throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> and V<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

1<sup>st</sup> — V<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

1<sup>st</sup> c. — III<sup>rd</sup> c. A.D. The emissions of local coins at Tomis (27 B.C.—249 A.D.), Callatis (44 — 249 A.D.) and Histria (117—249 A.D.).

246—257 Emissions of local coins for Dacia Province.

VI<sup>th</sup> — XIII<sup>th</sup> Centuries

VI<sup>th</sup> c. — XIII<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of Byzantine coins.

XI<sup>th</sup> c. — XIII<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of Hungarian coins in Transylvania.

XIII<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation in Banat, Transylvania and Oltenia of coins emitted in Central and Western Europe and, after 1260, the circulation of the Golden Horde's coins (in Moldavia, Dobruja, Oltenia and Banat).

XIV<sup>th</sup> — XV<sup>th</sup> Centuries

1300—1327—1360 Circulation of Tartar coins in Dobruja. Circulation of the last emissions of Byzantine gold perpers in Dobruja.

1302—1307 Emission of Hungarian coins in the first open mints in Transylvania, at Cluj and Baia Mare.

1361 Genoese documents mention the aspers of Chilia.

1365 Emission of Walachia's first coins during the reign of Vlaicu Voivode.

1365—1420, 1424—1425, 1436—1437, 1447—1456, 1462—1477  
Monetary emissions in Walachia.

1377 Emission of Moldavia's first coins by Petru I Musat Voivode.

1377—1392, 1399—1327, 1558, 1562—1564, 1573, 1585, 1587, 1600  
Monetary emissions in Moldavia.

1383 Aspers of Licostomo, mentioned in Genoese documents.

1389 Penetration of the Turkish asper in the monetary circulation of Dobruja.

XIV<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of the Bohemian grosses in Moldavia and of the Bulgarian ones in Walachia.

XIV<sup>th</sup> c. — XVI<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of Hungarian, Polish, Venetian and Turkish coins.

1538—1540, 1551—1600 Monetary emissions in Transylvania.

1575 Penetration of Dutch thalers.

- 1601—1607 Monetary emissions of Braşov town.
- 1601—1690 Monetary emissions in Transylvania.
- 1605 Monetary emissions of Sibiu town.
- 1612—1614 Monetary emissions of Braşov town.
- 1658 Monetary emissions in Walachia.
- 1662—1665 Monetary emissions in Moldavia.
- 1690—1780 Monetary emissions in Transylvania under the House of Habsburg.
- XVII<sup>th</sup> c.—XVIII<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of Turkish, Hungarian, Polish, Venetian, Dutch coins as well as those of some states belonging to the Roman-German Empire.
- 1713 Jubillary gold coin-medals struck by Prince Constantin Brincoveanu at Alba Iulia.
- ca. 1750 Changing of the leu derived from the Dutch thaler into a reckoning coin.
- 1771—1774 Emission of some bronze coins in Moldavia and Walachia under Russian occupation (the first coins to carry the coat of arms of both Romanian Principalities).
- XVII<sup>th</sup> c.—XIX<sup>th</sup> c. Circulation of a great number of foreign currency. Monetary chaos in Walachia and Moldavia.
- ca. 1835 Attempts to issue a national coin in Moldavia.
- ca. 1859 Attempts to issue a national coin in Walachia.
- 1853 Emission of the borrowing bond by the Romanian National Revolutionary Committee with a denomination of 10 imperial gold ducats with the special and sole destination: Romania's independence and freedom.

## MONETARY EMISSION IN MODERN ROMANIA (1859 — 1973)

- 1859 — Minting of proofs for a five paras bronze coin (it was not put in circulation).
- 1861 — Minting of proofs for a five cents bronze coin (it was not put in circulation).
- 1867 — Emission of the first small coins of Romania, in value of 10, 5, 2 banis and 1 ban, made of bronze, on the basis of the Monetary Law of April 22-May 4, 1867.
- 1870 — Emission of the first 20 lei coins, made of gold, and 1 leu, made of silver, within the bimetallic system (gold and silver standard) established by the same Law.
- 1873 — Emission of the first paper money (mortgaging bonds).
- 1881 — Emission of the first banknotes of the National Bank of Romania.
- 1890 — Emission of a 20 lei coin, in gold, within the monometallic system (gold standard) established by the Monetary Law of March 12/24, 1890.
- 1915 — Emissions of the last coins in value of 2 lei and 1 leu, in silver (dated 1914) within the monometallic system established by the same Law.

- 1921 — Emissions of 50 and 25 bans coins, in aluminium (the first post-war coins to circulate on the whole territory of Romania).
- 1930 — Emission of 20, 10 and 5 lei coins, in copper — zinc — nickel alloy, on the basis of the leu parity, established by the Monetary Law of February 7, 1929.
- 1947 — Emission of 1,000,000 and 5,000,000 lei banknotes, the highest nominal values emitted in Romania.
- 1947 — Emission of coins, paper money and banknotes, on the basis of the leu parity established by the Monetary Reform of August 16, 1947.
- 1948 — Emission of 5 lei coins, in aluminium, the first emission of the People's Republic of Romania.
- 1952 — Emission of coins, paper money and banknotes on the basis of the new parity of the leu, established by the Monetary Reform of January 26, 1952.
- 1954 — Emission of coins, after the establishing of a new parity for the leu by the Decision of the Council of Ministers, of January 31, 1954.
- 1966 — Emission of coins and banknotes, bearing the new name of the state: the Socialist Republic of Romania

## THE LEGAL TENDER OF THE "LEU" (THE ROMANIAN CURRENCY) (1867—1973)

- 1867 — 1 leu = 5 gm. of silver, the title 835‰, — The Law for setting up a new monetary system and for minting national coins (Decree No. 573 of April 14/26, 1867, published in *Monitorul Oficial* No. 89 of April 22/May 4, 1867).
- 1890 — 1 leu = 0.3226 gm. of gold, the title 900‰, — The Law for modifying the Law of April 14/26, 1867 on setting up a new monetary system and for minting national coins (Decree No. 837 of March 12/24, 1890, published in *Monitorul Oficial* No. 275 of March 17/22, 1890).
- 1929 — 1 leu = 0.610 gm. of gold, the title 900‰, — The Monetary Law No. 11 (Decree No. 359, published in *Monitorul Oficial* No. 30 Bis. of February 7, 1929).
- 1947 — 1 leu = 0.0006 gm. of gold, the title 900‰, — The Law No. 287 for the monetary reform and Decree No. 1727 of August 15, 1947, published in *Monitorul Oficial* No. 187, of August 16, 1947.
- 1952 — 1 leu = 0.079346 gm. of fine gold — The Decree No. 147 of the Council of Ministers and of the Central Committee of the Romanian Workers' Party on the monetary reform and price reduction (published in *Buletinul Oficial* No. 7 of January 26, 1952).
- 1954 — 1 leu = 0.148112 gm. of fine gold — The Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 127, of January 31, 1954.

O.I.

**TOWNS WITH A POPULATION ABOVE 20,000 INHABITANTS**  
(July 1, 1972)

Town	December 29, 1930 <sup>1</sup>	January 25, 1948 <sup>1</sup>	February 25, 1956 <sup>1</sup>	1966		1972	
				Without the towns and the communes included in the administrative territory	With the towns and the communes included in the administrative territory	Without the towns belong- ing to munic- ipalities and the suburban communes	Including the towns belong- ing to munic- ipalities and the suburban communes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
București	639,040	1,041,807	1,177,661	1,365,885	1,511,388	1,507,295	1,817,778
Cluj	100,844	117,915	154,723	185,786	222,652	208,125	208,125
Timișoara	91,580	111,087	142,257	174,388	193,039	199,987	214,226
Iași	102,872	94,075	112,077	160,889	194,835	193,998	215,701
Brașov	59,232	82,984	123,834	163,348	263,201	188,828	102,205
Galați	100,611	80,411	95,646	151,349	151,349	187,010	193,700
Craiova	63,215	84,574	96,897	148,821	173,315	183,035	210,057
Constanța	59,164	78,586	99,678	150,436	199,356 <sup>2</sup>	180,464	247,824 <sup>2</sup>
Ploiești	79,140	95,632	114,544	146,973	190,887	168,642	224,763
Brăila	68,347	95,544	102,500	138,587	144,341	157,840	164,448
Oradea	82,687	82,282	98,950	122,509	134,939	144,038	154,708
Arad	77,181	87,291	106,460	126,005	130,912	141,380	163,303
Sibiu	49,345	60,602	90,475	100,546	109,548	124,426	142,409
Trgu Mureș	38,517	47,043	65,194	86,458	104,022	106,150	128,187
Bacău	31,138	34,461	54,138	73,481	87,465	90,802	123,246
Satu Mare	51,495	46,519	52,096	68,257	68,257	84,182	84,182
Pitești	19,532	20,007	38,330	60,094	78,784	84,081	121,125
Baia Mare	13,904	20,059	35,920	62,769	108,709	83,060	100,898
Hunedoara	4,600	7,018	36,498	68,303	100,953	77,978	89,129
Buzău	35,687	43,365	47,595	56,380	82,454	75,112	75,112

<sup>1</sup> Without suburban communes.

<sup>2</sup> Including the towns: Eforie (6,617 inhab.), Mangalia (12,674 inhab.), Năvodari (6,344 inhab.), Techirghiol (6,839 inhab.).

<sup>3</sup> Including the towns: Eforie (8,320 inhab.), Mangalia (15,657 inhab.), Năvodari (7,623 inhab.), Techirghiol (8,414 inhab.).

# HIGHEST DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

The highest distinction in the Socialist Republic of Romania is the title of "*Hero of the Socialist Republic of Romania*", instituted by the Decree No. 166, of May 6, 1971. Persons distinguished with the title of "*Hero of the Socialist Republic of Romania*" are also awarded the order "*Victory of Socialism*".

Next in rank to the title of "*Hero of the Socialist Republic of Romania*" is that of "*Hero of Socialist Labour*" which was set up by the Decree No. 168, of September 26, 1951, as amended by the Decree No. 140, of April 19, 1972. Persons to whom such a title is conferred are awarded the golden medal "*The Hammer and the Sickle*", as well.

## ORDERS:

— "*The Star of the Socialist Republic of Romania*" (with 5 classes), established by the Decree No. 40, of January 12, 1948, as amended by the Decree No. 271, of April 13, 1966;

— "*Victory of Socialism*" (with no classes), established by the Decree No. 167, of May 6, 1971.

"*The Star of the Socialist Republic of Romania*" and the "*Victory of Socialism*" are the highest orders of the Socialist Republic of Romania, of equal rank in the hierarchy of decorations.

— "*33 August*" (with 5 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 199, of June 3, 1959;

— "*Tudor Vladimirescu*" (with 5 classes), set up by the Decree No. 272, of April 13, 1966;

— "*Homeland Defence*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 393, of July, 23, 1948;

— "*Distinguished Service in the Social Field and State Affairs*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 393, of September 20, 1958;

— "*Meritorious Service*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 19, of April, 29, 1948;

Besides the above-mentioned distinctions, the following orders are conferred for outstanding achievements in special fields of activity:

— "*Distinguished Activity in the Field of Science*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 737, of September 26, 1966;

— "*Distinguished Activity in the Cultural Field*" (with 5 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 738, of September 26, 1966;

— "*Distinguished Activity in the Agricultural Field*" (with 5 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 6, of January 23, 1974;

— "*Military Valour*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 211, of June 1, 1954;

— "*Distinguished Activity in the Medical Service*" (with 3 classes), instituted by the Decree No. 54, of January 29, 1969;

— "*Distinguished Activity in Sports*" (with 3 classes), set up by the Decree No. 333, of April 29, 1966.

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