

Alexander E. Ronnett

Alexander E. Ronnett, also known as **Alexandru Ronnett**, (September 5, 1920 - September 17, 2001) was a dentist and a Legionary activist and writer.

Biography

Alexander Ronnett was born in 1920 in Bukovina, near Suceava, and was educated at the Universities of Margburg and Frankfurt. At a young age he became a member of the Brotherhoods of the Cross and thus a member of the Legion of Michael the Archangel. Ronnett was arrested during the dictatorship of King Carol II in 1938 as a part of Carol's persecutions of the Legionary Movement and imprisoned until the establishment of the National Legionary State in 1940. After Antonescu's coup against the state in 1941, he fled to Yugoslavia and later arrived in Vienna and was placed into internment camps by the Germans along with thousands of other Legionaries. During the Legionary Romanian National Government in Vienna led by Horia Sima, Ronnett fought as a soldier against the Soviet Union. [1] At the end of World War II, Ronnett fled to the United States to escape the Communist regime. After first living in Iowa, he moved to Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, graduating in 1954. Ronnett served three years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps in Frankfurt, Germany during the Korean War while Simultaneously completing his medical degree in Frankfurt. After returning to Chicago he opened his own dental office. [2] He was notable for president of the Romanian-American National Congress, a representative of the World Anti-Communist League, and president of a Legionary organization called "Freedom Front." Ronnett was heavily involved in anti-Communist activism and collaborated with numerous anti-Communist newspapers and groups. [3] Alexander Ronnett is the author of *Romanian Nationalism: The Legionary Movement*[4] and "*The Legionary Movement in Romania*" (written with Faust Bradescu),[5] two important works on the Legionary Movement in the English language.

Works

- *Romanian Nationalism: The Legionary Movement*
- *Will Communism Overtake Us?*
- *Neam fără noroc sau Blestemul lui Zamolxe*
- "The Legionary Movement in Romania"
- "An interview with Horia Sima, Commander-in-Chief Legion of Archangel Michael"
- Preface to *Nightmare in broad daylight* by Ion Nicolau
- "Nationalismul Crestin Romanesc Fata cu Mondialismul"
- "Mircea Eliade"
- "In Pragul Mortii"

References

1. Nicolae Nita, "Dr. Alexandru Ronnett," <<http://www.miscarea.net/ronnett.html>>.
2. Krystyna Slivinski, "Dr. Alexander E. Ronnett, 81," *Chicago Tribune* (Sept. 20, 2001), <http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2001-09-20/news/0109200324_1_dental-office-medical-clinic-family-physician>.
3. Nicolae Nita, "Dr. Alexandru Ronnett," <<http://www.miscarea.net/ronnett.html>>.
4. Alexander E. Ronnett, *Romanian Nationalism: The Legionary Movement* (Chicago: Romanian-American National Congress, 1995).
5. Alexander E. Ronnett and Faust Bradescu, "The Legionary Movement in Romania," *The Journal of Historical Review*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 193-228. Link to online IHR version: <http://www.ihr.org/jhr/v07/v07p193_Ronnett.html>.

Romanian Nationalism (book)

Romanian Nationalism: The Legionary Movement by Alexander E. Ronnett is a 250 page book giving an overview of the history and doctrine of the Legion of Michael the Archangel or the Legionary Movement (also called the "Iron Guard") founded by Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. Ronnett explains that the Legion was largely a reaction against the exploitation of Romanian peasants and workers by capitalists and the threat of international Communism and the Soviet Union during the 1920s. Strong emphasis is put on its difference with National Socialism and Fascism.

The Legion's highly religious character, its nationalist mysticism, its rejection of democracy, and its glorification of labor and volunteer work are all explained as the basic points of its doctrine and function. [1] "Codreanu considered the Legion's mission a holy crusade; its enemies were, not only the enemies of Romania, but also the enemies of God." [2] According to Ronnett, the Legion was especially anti-Jewish largely because many leftists in Romania were Jewish as well, not because of any hatred. A large portion of the book is also spent explaining the history of Codreanu's Legion, with special focus on the three sets of heavy persecutions the Legionaries faced from King Carol II, Ion Antonescu, and the post-war Communist government (see The Pitesti Phenomenon). [3]

Unfortunately for those who wish to study Legionary history, this book is out of print and is accessible almost solely through university libraries. An essay titled "The Legionary Movement in Romania" delivered to the Institute for Historical Review (IHR) by Ronnett and Faust Bradescu appears to be an attempt to summarize their main points about the nature of the Legionary Movement and its history. A statement he made in this work perhaps explains why he believes that it is important that Legionarism is taught in a proper light: "...the Legionary spirit persists, invisible but tenacious, anchored in the depths of the Romanian soul as the only

salvation for the nation, and perhaps for the world, which sees and feels itself carried towards the abyss." [4]

Excerpt from Book

On June 24, 1927, Corneliu Zelea Codreanu, together with a few battle-tested comrades, founded the Legion of the Archangel Michael. In all his writings, Codreanu, known to all Romanians as "The Captain", referred to the Legion of the Archangel Michael as the Legionary Movement. This Movement was known in foreign circles and press as "The Iron Guard". Of great significance on the occasion of the founding of the Legion of the Archangel Michael are Codreanu's words: "Those whose faith in God and the Legion have no boundary should enter our ranks. Those who waver and doubt should stay out."

In a materialistic world Codreanu based his Movement on the following principles:

1 FAITH IN GOD

Corneliu Codreanu was of the firm conviction that politics could not be separated from religion. Only men who have respect for the Divine Order can become true patriots.

2.... NATIONAL IDENTITY

Corneliu Codreanu believed that nations are divine creations and not mere products of history and geography. He also believed that every nation has a mission to fulfill in the world. Only nations that betray their God-given mission disappear from the face of the earth.

3 MAN --- A DIVINE CREATION

Man is a bearer of superior values which transcend his particular existence. As such, being a divine creation, his spiritual values precede all material needs. For the realization of these values, the individual must fight and sacrifice throughout his life.

Among his principles there exists a hierarchical order. The individual is subordinate to his nation, and, in turn, the nation is subordinate to God and His divine laws.

The Legion of the Archangel Michael represented a nationalistic movement, whose aim was to change the individual and create a new "state of mind" of the nation. The Movement was not a political party. However, the Movement participated in the political arena in Romania with a party known as "Everything For The Fatherland" (TOTUL PENTRU TARA). In the elections of 1937 this party had a resounding success.

After having appeased Hitler and having obtained his assurance of "no interference in internal affairs", Carol II ordered the assassination of Codreanu. During the night of November 29-30, 1938, Codreanu and thirteen Legionnaires were strangled to death. From 1938 to 1940 Romanian jails were filled with Legionnaires. Most of the leaders of the Legionary Movement were killed during this period of time---they were taken out of

prisons and concentration camps and machine-gunned to death.

1938 - 1940: Legionary Movement was headed by different Legionnaires. All of these leaders were killed.

September 3, 1940: Horia Sima, as the new leader of the Movement, succeeded in overthrowing Carol II. After this "over-throw" of the King, Horia Sima was accepted and anointed as the leader of the Movement. In the new government of Romania, Horia Sima took the position of Vice President.

January 1941: General Antonescu, with the help of Hitler, assumed military dictatorship and unleashed a new persecution against the Legionary Movement. Horia Sima and over 400 Legionnaires took refuge in Germany. As political refugees, Horia Sima and the other Legionnaires were incarcerated in the concentration camps of Buchenwald, Dachau and Oranienburg.

August 23, 1944: King Michael, with the help of the leaders of the political parties, arrested General Antonescu and committed the shameful act of treason against its ally, Germany. The Romanian army entered the war against Germany.

August 26, 1944: Horia Sima formed the National Romanian Government and became the President of the Romanian Government, with headquarters in Vienna.

The Legionary Movement in Exile, under the leadership of Horia Sima, continues the fight against communism.

Publication Data

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Notes

1. Interestingly, Ronnett denies that the Legionaries cared about race. This is, unfortunately, an error in his otherwise good explanations of the doctrine. While some individual Legionaries did not care about race, overall the Legion was actually concerned with keeping the nation racially cohesive, although simultaneously it did not express any racial supremacism.
2. Alexander E. Ronnett, *Romanian Nationalism*, pg. 17.
3. Ronnett wrote: "That same year (1948) in May tens of thousands were arrested throughout the country. The prisons were filled to saturation with Legionaries. Especially three of these prisons - Pitesti, Aiud, and Gheria - will be forever remembered for the tragic fate of the Legionaries..." (p. 56).

4. Ronnett, Alexander E. and Bradescu, Faust. "The Legionary Movement in Romania." *The Journal of Historical Review*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 193-228. Link to online IHR version: http://www.ihr.org/jhr/v07/v07p193_Ronnett.html