

= History of the flags of Romania =

The colors of the national flag of Romania (Romanian : Drapelul României) have a long history . Red , yellow and blue were found on late 16th @-@ century royal grants of Michael the Brave , as well as shields and banners . Thus , the late 13th century Wijbergen armorial shows the coat of arms of the Wallachian ruler Litovoi as consisting of a shield of ten vertically alternating gold @-@ and @-@ red bands , which were the colors of the coat of arms of the Second Bulgarian Empire , of which Wallachia was part . The same two colors , gules and or , also appeared on the late 15th century flag and coat of arms of Moldavia , during the reign of Stephen the Great [1] . Then , from the late 16th century until the mid @-@ 17th century , the historical coat of arms of Transylvania gradually developed as a shield party per fess , consisting of a black eagle on blue background in the upper field , a dividing red band in the middle , and seven red towers on golden background in the lower field . Finally , in the last quarter of the 18th century , Bukovina gets its own coat of arms from the Habsburg Empire , a blue @-@ and @-@ red shield party per pale with a black aurochs ' head in the middle , and three golden six @-@ pointed stars surrounding it . During the Wallachian uprising of 1821 , they were present on the canvas of the revolutionaries ' flag and its fringes ; for the first time a meaning was attributed to them : " Liberty (sky @-@ blue) , Justice (field yellow) , Fraternity (blood red) " .

= = Tricolor = =

The tricolor was first adopted in Wallachia in 1834 , when the reforming domnitor Alexandru II Ghica submitted naval and military colors designs for the approval of Sultan Mahmud II . The latter was a ? flag with a red , blue and yellow face , also having stars and a bird ? s head in the middle ? . Soon , the order of colors was changed , with yellow appearing in the center . When the flags were handed over for use , Ghica remarked :

In 1840 , in order to differentiate the military colors from the war flag , Ghica adopted a new design for the former : a red @-@ yellow @-@ blue tricolor , with red on top and stripes of equal width . In the center was a white shield bordered with gold and decorated with the Wallachian eagle , wearing the princely crown and with a cross in its beak .

In 1848 , the flag adopted for Wallachia by the revolutionaries that year was a blue @-@ yellow @-@ red tricolor (with blue above , in line with the meaning ? Liberty , Justice , Fraternity ?) . Already on 26 April , according to Gazeta de Transilvania , Romanian students in Paris were hailing the new government with a blue , gold and red national flag , ? as a symbol of union between Moldavians and Muntenians ? .

Decree nr . 1 of 14 / 26 June 1848 of the provisional government mentioned that ? the National Flag will have three colors : blue , yellow , red ? , emblazoned with the words ? DPE?TATE ?P??IE ? (Dreptate , Fr??ie or ? Justice , Fraternity ? , in the Romanian transitional alphabet) . It differed from earlier tricolors in that the blue stripe was on top , the princely symbol was eliminated from the corners , as was the crown atop the eagle at the end of the flagpole , while a motto was now present . These flags were blessed the following day , being intended for use by the National Guard . Today only the Slatina city guard ? s flag survives . On the blue stripe appear the words (Fr??ie Dreptate or ? Fraternity , Justice ?) , on the yellow ? (Jude?ul Olt? or ? Olt County ?) and on the red ? (Ora?ul Slatina or ? The City of Slatina ?) . It is 124 centimeter long and 110 centimeter wide . The existence of similar flags is confirmed by records , which in some cases even mention the manufacturer ? s price . Thus , the police observer ? s flag (made of chalon or cloth friezed on both sides) and that of the Bucharest doroban?i detachment (made of Tibet wool) together cost 192 lei and 10 parale . Decree nr . 5 of 18 June ordered garrisons to store old flags in warehouses : ? it being necessary to change flags , new flags will soon be sent to you ? . On 25 June , General Christian Tell asked the provisional government to approve the manufacture of six flags (three for the infantry and three for the cavalry) , following which they would be ? submitted to the provisional government for approval ? . His request was granted on 11 July , though the flags were not distributed until 11 September , in a solemn ceremony . On 30 June , Metropolitan Neofit , as prime

minister , gave the following disposition : ? the standards of liberty will be raised on all buildings , and the insignia will be carried ? . These symbols were widely employed in demonstrations and raised on public buildings , boats , warships , etc .

Nevertheless , decree nr . 252 of 13 / 25 July 1848 , issued because ? it has not [yet] been agreed how the national standards should be designed ? , defined the flag as three vertical stripes , possibly influenced by the French model . The shades were ? dark blue , light yellow and carmine red ? ; as for order , ? near the wood comes blue , then yellow and then red fluttering ? .

Petre Vasiliu @-@ N?sturel observes that from a heraldic point of view , on the French as well as the revolutionary Wallachian flag , the middle stripe represents a heraldic metal (argent and or respectively) . Other writers believe that the tricolor was not an imitation of the French flag , instead embodying an old Romanian tradition . This theory is supported by a note from the revolutionary foreign minister to Emin Pasha : ? the colors of the band that we the leaders wear , as well as all our followers , are not of modern origin . We have had our flags since an earlier time . When we received the tricolor insignia and bands we did not follow the spirit of imitation or fashion ? .

Earlier , at the Sibiu Conference of 26 April / 8 May 1848 , Transylvanian revolutionaries had also adopted a blue @-@ white @-@ red national flag (vertical , according to the memoirs of George Bari?) . It was emblazoned with the words ? VIRTUTEA ROMAN? REÎNVIAT? ? (? ROMAN VIRTUE RESURRECTED ?) . A number of contemporary sources attests these colors (including the Blaj newspaper Organul na?ionale and Alexandru Papiu Ilarian ? s Istorie a românilor din Dacia superioar?) . They had a twofold significance : their importance in Romanian costume and their union of the Transylvanian principality ? s old colors (blue and red) with the white symbolizing peace . It appears that the two specimens with blue @-@ yellow @-@ red stripes preserved today at the National Museum of Romanian History were made later to commemorate the events at Blaj ; yellow replaced white as a symbol of Romanian Transylvanians ? desire to join Romania .

After the revolution was quelled , the old flags were restored and the revolutionaries punished for having worn the tricolor . In 1849 , domnitor Barbu Dimitrie ?tirbei adopted a new design for military colors that nevertheless preserved the colors ? horizontal layout and only changed decorative elements . Similar to the 1834 flag , this one lasted until 1856 .

During the Caimacam of three (October 1858 @-@ January 1859) , as the acting regents did not have the right to inscribe their initials on military flags , the monograms of the Wallachian domnitori were replaced by eagles .

= = = Merger legend = = =

After 1860 , a legend arose stating that the national tricolor had been formed by merging the colors of the Moldavian and Wallachian flags , probably out of a desire to reconcile all parties to the choice of the Wallachian revolutionary flag of 1848 for all of Romania . This legend was also convenient with respect to the colors attributed to the two principalities ? flags at the time (red and blue for Moldavia and blue and yellow for Wallachia) .

The legend inspired a number of artworks , including a painting by Constantin Lecca . Wishing to depict the brotherhood between Moldavians and Wallachians , he chose a passage from the Bistri?a Chronicle : ? In the year 7015 (1506) , October 28 , prince Ioan Bogdan Voievod entered the Muntenian land with all his troops to the place R?tezat , near the hillock C?iata , on that side of the Râmnic ; and there arrived an emissary from Radu Voievod [...] who begged prince Bogdan Voievod to make peace with Radu Voievod , because ? you are Christians and from the same people ? (said he) ; and many words were exchanged between them and much begging was made [...] and prince Bogdan Voievod , seeing so much begging , followed his wishes and made peace ? . Lecca ? s painting shows the two domnitori shaking hands in the center . The flags of Moldavia (blue @-@ red) and of Wallachia (yellow @-@ blue) can also be seen , although these color combinations have not been attested prior to 1832 ? 34 .

P. V. N?sturel contests this legend , noting that the red @-@ yellow @-@ blue tricolor predated the union of the principalities and that the three colors , arrayed vertically , represent the flag of the Romanian nation in all lands inhabited by Romanians .

In 1848 , the tricolor was present in Focșani and Râmnicu Sărat (on opposite sides of the principalities ' border) during demonstrations of fraternity held by Moldavians and Wallachians , while in 1857 , around the time of the Moldavian Ad hoc Divan , the civilian population adopted the tricolor as a symbol of union , a fact observed by Count Alexandre Walewski , French foreign minister .

Also that year , the minister of foreign affairs of the Wallachian provisional government assured the extraordinary envoy of the Porte , Suleiman Pasha , that the flag 's three colors had existed ' for a long time ; our ancestors bore them on their standard and their flags . So they are not a borrowing or an imitation from the present or a threat for the future ? .

Another of Lecca ' s paintings shows the assassination of Michael the Brave in 1601 . Also depicted is the united standard of the three provinces , with yellow on top (Wallachia) , red in the middle (Moldavia) and blue below (Transylvania) . This hypothesis of the three colors ' union has appeared in historical literature , also engendering skepticism regarding the arguments deployed in its favor .

= = Flags of the United Principalities = =

On 6 February 1859 , on his first journey to Bucharest since being elected domnitor of Wallachia , Alexandru Ioan Cuza was greeted at the edge of the city of Buzău by the commander of the *dorobanți* , who was carrying a tricolor flag . The sight deeply moved Cuza .

Until 1861 the old flags of Moldavia and Wallachia were used alongside the tricolor . On 22 June of that year , Cuza decreed the tricolor as the United Principalities ' official civil flag .

The flag was the red @-@ yellow @-@ blue Romanian tricolor , with horizontal stripes . Neither the order of stripes nor the proportion of the civil flag are known . This is first described in *Almanahul român din 1866* : ' the tricolor flag , divided in three stripes , red , yellow and blue and laid out horizontally : red above , blue below and yellow in the middle ' . Some sources suggest that the top stripe was blue until 1862 (as in the revolutionary Wallachian tricolor of 1848) , replaced that year by red . An approximate ratio of 1 : 3 has been suggested , although the princely and army flags , both preserved , had a 2 : 3 proportion . As for symbolism , P. V. Năsturel asserts that ' from 1859 to 1866 it represented just what it had done in 1848 : liberty , justice , fraternity " .

The flag gained a degree of international recognition . Relating prince Cuza ' s May - June 1864 journey to Constantinople , doctor Carol Davila observed : ' The Romanian flag was raised on the great mast , the Sultan ' s kayaks awaited us , the guard was armed , the Grand Vizier at the door ... The Prince , quiet , dignified , concise in his speech , spent 20 minutes with the Sultan , who then came to review us ... Once again , the Grand Vizier led the Prince to the main gate and we returned to the Europe Palace , the Romanian flag still fluttering on the mast ... ' .

= = = Princely flag = = =

A rather worn tricolor is found today in the collections of the National Museum of Romanian History , with inventory number 75045 . Rectangular in shape (with a 2 : 3 ratio) , it is made up of three silk strips laid out horizontally (with red on top . In the center @-@ right of the flag is painted the Wallachian eagle , a cross in its beak and clutching the symbols of princely power , while the Moldavian aurochs appears on the center @-@ left , a six @-@ pointed star between its horns . Six inclined tricolor flags surround the two symbols (three on the left and three on the right) ; their flagpoles probably crossed near the bottom , which is now lost . Each flag has a blue ribbon above it and at the tips of their flagpoles are found , one on each side , a Wallachian eagle , the edge of a lance and a Moldavian aurochs . On the red strip are found stitched a princely crown , situated in the center so as to mark the two coats of arms , and the statement ' UNIREA PRINCIPATELOR ' FERICIREA ROMÂNILOR . TRĂIAScă A. IOAN I ! ' (' The Union of the Principalities ' the joy of Romanians . Long Live A. Ioan I ! ') on both sides of the crown and now partially faded . The flagpole ends in a metal sphere topped by an eagle .

Researchers differ on the origin and date of this flag . Col. Dr. Alexandru Vasile and Dr. Maria

Ionî?? consider that this was the United Principalities ? official flag . The latter dates it to 1859 , the period immediately after the Union , as does Dan Cernovodeanu . Mario to believes it was a military colors used between 1859 and 1861 .

Elena P?I?nceanu and Cornelia Apostol believe it was a princely flag designed in 1862 , after the full union of the two entities , proclaimed on 11 / 24 December 1861 . Indeed , Cuza only adopted the title ? Alexandru Ion I ? after this date .

After Cuza ? s abdication , the flag was kept at the Bucharest Army Arsenal until 1919 , when it was transferred to the National Military Museum . It has been at its present location since 1971 .

It seems that this specimen was preceded by another , dating to 1859 , featuring a tricolor canvas with somewhat smaller dimensions . In this flag , the blue strip is on top , while the two principalities ? coats of arms are no longer surrounded by flags . Today the inscription on the blue strip is illegible , but differed from that found on the other flag .

Another princely flag , rather different from contemporary designs , is a silk tricolor with vertical stripes (blue hoist) and a princely crown painted in the center . It was raised whenever the domnitor was present at Ruginoasa Castle . Today it is found at the Suceava History Museum , part of the Bukovina Museum Complex .

= = = Military colors = = =

Article 45 of the Paris Convention (1858) provided that ? the armies of both countries will keep their present flags ; but these flags will feature , in the future , a blue banderole , in conformity with the design attached to the present Convention ? .

On 18 March 1863 , the War Minister , General Ion Emanuel Florescu , asked Cuza to approve a design for army flags , agreed upon by the government in its session of 12 March . The flags featured the national tricolor (horizontal stripes , with red on top) , over which was a Roman eagle with a cross in its beak . In a solemn order of the day on 19 March , Cuza decided : ? Considering that the army , following the union , should have but one flag ; keeping in mind that the true emblem of Romania can only be the Roman eagle , [...] we have decreed and do decree what follows : the Roman eagle with cross in its mouth shall be placed , as the emblem of Romania , above the army ? s flags [...] ?

The resulting designs , distributed on 1 September 1863 , differ somewhat from those legislated in March . This , the Roman eagle , wings outstretched , wearing the princely crown , carries the princely scepter in its right talon and the sword in its left ; on its breast appears an open shield topped by the princely crown . On the left of the shield , over azure and gold , is the Wallachian eagle (a cross in its beak , in left profile and wearing the princely crown) ; on the right , over red and azure , is the Moldavian aurochs with a star between its horns . Hanging from the scepter and sword is a red ribbon with gold @-@ embossed letters : ? HONOR ET PATRIA ? (? honor and Fatherland ?) . In the fly corners the prince ? s initial is stitched , surrounded by a laurel wreath ; all are golden . Each flag also had inscribed the unit that bore it . The cloth part was 122 centimeter long and 100 centimeter wide . A metal Roman eagle was affixed to the tip of the flagpole . Although the order of 19 March had the Moldavian symbol in the right , nevertheless the first on the shield is the Wallachian eagle . The design was most likely adopted due to customary usage that arose after Bucharest became the single capital in February 1862 .

These flags were distributed to the following units :

With the occasion of handing over the flags , Cuza delivered the following speech :

These flags were used until 1866 when , after Cuza ? s abdication , they were changed . Four army flags of the 1863 design are preserved today .

= = Romanian flags until 1918 = =

Article 124 of the 1866 Constitution of Romania provided that ? the colors of the United Principalities will be Blue , Yellow and Red ? . The order and placement of the colors were decided by the Assembly of Deputies in its session of 26 March 1867 . Thus , following a proposal by Nicolae

Golescu , they were placed just as in 1848 . The commission ' s work continued on 30 March as well ; following an affirmative vote by the Senate , these wrapped up with the adoption , on 12 / 24 April 1867 , of the ' Law for fixing the arms of Romania ' .

According to this , the flag ' s colors had to be placed vertically in the following order : blue hoist , yellow in the middle and red fly . The country ' s coat of arms was placed only on army and princely flags , in the center ; civilian flags remained without a coat of arms . The same distinction was made between flags for the naval war fleet and the civilian fleet .

The rapporteur Mihail Kogălniceanu , who also conveyed the opinion of Cezar Bolliac , Dimitrie Brătianu , Constantin Grigorescu , Ion Leca , Nicolae Golescu and Gheorghe Grigore Cantacuzino , said : ' The tricolor flag as it is today is not (as the minister claims) the flag of the Union of the principalities . It is much more : it is itself the flag of the Romanian nation in all lands inhabited by Romanians ' .

The ' Law for modifying the country ' s arms ' of 11 / 23 March 1872 did not change these provisions , only the design of the coat of arms . The design proposed by Ștefan Dimitrie Grecianu was adopted .

== = Princely and royal standard == =

According to the laws of 1867 and 1872 , the princely (later royal) standard was identical to that of the army , with the country ' s coat of arms in the center .

Nevertheless , when these were produced a slightly different design was adopted : the yellow stripe was twice as wide as the red and blue ones , and the canvas had a 1 : 1 ratio . Each corner of the flag had sewn into it a silver royal crown . The crown prince ' s standard was identical except that it lacked the crowns in the corners .

An album dating to the end of the 19th century and the October 1917 National Geographic Magazine show the flags as having stripe ratios of 1 : 3 : 1 .

== = Military colors == =

Right after Alexander John Cuza ' s abdication , the military units ' military colors were replaced with a new 1866 design ; instead of the coat of arms , the name of the company appeared on the standards . However , the eagle at the edge of the flagpole was preserved .

The flags distributed to the Civic Guard , re @-@ established in March 1866 , had a different design : the colors were vertical , in the center was found the respective city ' s coat of arms and not the national one , and the eagle at the end of the lance was larger and featured the shield of the United Principalities on its breast . P. V. Năsturel classifies these as 1867 design flags and describes them in detail : the canvas was 114 centimeter long and 95 centimeter wide (so a 5 : 6 ratio) and in the center was painted the respective city ' s coat of arms , covered with a golden mural crown . In the corners , surrounded by laurel wreaths , the number of the legion was stitched in Roman numerals . Golden fringes surrounded the canvas , with tassels from the same fabric hanging at the corners . The eagle at the end of the flagpole had its wings facing downward , had the princely crown on its head and carried a sceptre in its right hand and a sword in its left ; all were made of gold . A shield was carved into the eagle ' s breast , with the Wallachian eagle in the first half and the Moldavian aurochs ' head in the second . Above the sword and sceptre a ribbon passed bearing the inscription ' Honor et Patria ' . On 11 September 1867 , Prince Carol I solemnly handed over these flags to the Civic Guards .

In 1873 it was decided that the 1866 design military flags would be replaced with the 1872 design , following the Law for the modification of the national coat of arms of 1872 . Design @-@ wise , these fall into several generations .

Flags produced in 1873 (24 flags and 10 standards) , of which only one , the Firemen ' s , survived in 1900 , were square , 150 centimeter on each side . In its center was painted , on a maroon background surrounded by a closed wreath of silver laurels , Romania ' s middle coat of arms . The monogram of Prince Carol was in the corners , surrounded by a laurel crown , while the

flagpole was topped by a metal eagle with the motto "Onoare și Patria" (" honor and Fatherland ") as well as the unit's number and name . The cavalry flags had canvases of reduced dimensions (45 centimeter) , while the decorative elements were embroidered and not painted . All these insignia were distributed to the units on 14 October 1874 , on the field at Bălneasa .

Flags produced between 1877 and 1882 differ slightly from the preceding ones . On 17 July 1877 , just ten units created after 1874 received this design , at the Poiana army headquarters . On this occasion , Prince Carol addressed the following words to his troops : " In giving you the corps' flag , I entrust the honor of Romania , which I thus place under the shield of courage , to your devotion and self-denial . For the first time the solemn occasion arises where you receive the flag on the day before going onto the field of honor ; seek to crown it with an undying glory . Never forget that the flag is the symbol of the fatherland ... "

These two categories of flags were replaced with new ones in 1902 , on the 25th anniversary of the Romanian War of Independence .

Small details differentiate flags produced between 1882 and 1897 from their predecessors . The canvas was square , 156 centimeter to a side ; a ribbon of tricolored thread ending in tassels was attached to the flagpole . The lions holding up the coat of arms had gold teeth and claws this time , while the coat of arms was no longer bordered in maroon . In the middle of the shield , the coat of arms of the House of Hohenzollern was surrounded by a gold border .

These three generations were realized by the Romanian state at Berlin's Collani et Comp house . In 1896 , war minister Anton Berindei , observing that " the way in which [the flags] are woven and the materials used leave something to be desired , as their canvas gets cut and breaks " , addressed an order to General Ioan Argetoianu , president of the joint commission and inspector general of the military engineers : " I have the honor of asking you to take measures so that the commission over which you preside can make a detailed description of the flags and standards in existence , on the materials from which they must be produced , dimensions , etc . In the work to be done the law of 8 March 1872 [...] which decided the national insignia and flag , will be kept in mind " .

Thus , beginning with the 1897 design flags , the ratio was 2 : 3 , the entire national coat of arms appeared in the center (with modifications made after 1881) , and the wreath that surrounded it was sometimes open .

Most of the flags belonging to divisions that took part in World War I were handed to them in 1902 or in 1908-1916 , and were used until 1929 when they were transferred to the Military Museum . These are similar to the 1897 design , although after King Carol died on 10 October 1914 , King Ferdinand's monogram began appearing in the corners . Their dimensions vary from 90 × 65 centimeter to 115 × 73 centimeter .

Along with the military colors , through High decrees nr . 355 of February 1871 and nr . 1467 of 21 August 1873 , designs for stakes were defined for each infantry corps , as well as battalion pennants . The latter substituted for military colors where necessary (each regiment had just a single flag) , and were vertical tricolors , as provided by the 1867 and 1872 laws regarding Romania's coats of arms .

A flag was also established for Romania's Coast Guard . According to the October 1917 National Geographic , this was identical to the national flag , except that the yellow stripe featured a blue anchor and cable , above which was a silver royal crown .

Also in this period there appeared laws and regulations providing how the military colors should be used , guarded and saluted . Thus , High decree nr . 1451 of 18 August 1873 specified that the flag should be carried by the regiment's adjutant junior officer , aided by the flag-bearing officer . Likewise , the composition of the infantry's flag guard was regulated . This was composed of five sergeants , of whom two in the first row , flanking the adjutant junior officer and having the assistant officer on the right , and three in the second row , behind the first . The " Regulation concerning infantry exercises and maneuvers " provided that during military maneuvers the flag (or pennant) should be in the center of the second battalion if the regiment was composed of three battalions or in the center of the first battalion if the regiment had only two . The flag-bearer , chosen by the colonel , was not integrated into any subdivision of the battalion . The same regulation listed in its

index the honors due to the flag , as well as the manner of saluting with the flag , with the specification that this was reserved for the princely family .

= = = Romanian flags in Transylvania , Banat , Bukovina and Bessarabia = = =

Transylvania , Banat , Bukovina and Bessarabia were provinces of the Austro -@- Hungarian and Russian empires with substantial Romanian populations . In 1918 , the year they joined Romania , favorable conditions arose for the Romanians there to express openly their desire to unite with the ? Motherland ? .

In Bessarabia , the Moldavian Democratic Republic was created on 2 December 1917 and declared independence on 24 January 1918 . In May 1917 , the heraldist Paul Gore had written a Russian @-@ language study , ? The National colors of the Romanians in Bessarabia ? , which sought to demonstrate that Bessarabians should use the Romanian tricolor correctly : ? A certain esteem for the national past and just a little courage are needed to defend your national legal rights . In no way do I insist that our national flag composed of three stripes colored blue , yellow and red have these stripes arranged vertically . Let these stripes , in the order indicated , be horizontal . But the colors and their order we must preserve , especially because all three of these colors are also in the Coat of Arms of Bessarabia , which represents , if we eliminate the border made up of the Imperial colors , precisely the ancient coat of arms of the Moldavian Principality , and it is known that flags must be designed according to the exact rules of heraldry , according to the colors of the field and the emblems of the corresponding coats of arms ? .

With this perspective in mind , the heraldist Silviu Andrie? @-@ Tabac considers Gore the moral author of the flag of the Moldavian Democratic Republic . This was a blue @-@ yellow @-@ red tricolor with horizontal stripes and the coat of arms in the center of the yellow field and the inscription ? Republica Democratic? Moldoveneasc? ?i Independent? ? (? The Moldavian and Independent Democratic Republic ?) in the center of the blue field . The flag of Sfatul ??rii was similar , except that ? Sfatul ??rii ? was written on the blue field and the coat of arms , with larger dimensions , was placed in the middle , over yellow and red .

The republic ? s military colors were fashioned ? several weeks before 6 December [1917] , when the parade of Moldavian troops from Bessarabia took place ? . These were also tricolors ; on one side was written the regiment ? s number in silver thread , and on the other , stretching all across the flag , the letters ? R M ? .

In Transylvania , many Romanian flags were produced in anticipation of the Great National Assembly at Alba Iulia . These were horizontal blue @-@ yellow @-@ red tricolors , echoing the 1848 revolution . The images on glass captured at the Assembly by photographer Samoil? Mârza show a massive throng above whom flutter numerous such flags , some of the canvases inscribed with a motto .

The National Museum of Romanian History holds three flags from Assembly participants and the coat of arms of a fourth , which belonged to the Alba Iulia national guard . The first tricolor has dimensions of 235 × 100 centimeter , and each of its stripes ends on the fly in a corner with the tip turned outside . The wooden flagpole is painted black . On second tricolor , 130 × 75 centimeter , just the yellow and red stripes survive , and both end in a corner with the tip on the outside . The third flag is woolen and 190 × 120 centimeter . Its colored stripes all end in a sharp angle with the tip outside ; to each one is sewn a tassel in the respective color . A tricolor ribbon with a tassel on either end is attached to the flagpole .

= = Flags of Greater Romania = =

After Greater Romania came into being , the tricolor remained the official flag , with stripes arranged vertically and without a coat of arms in the center .

= = = Royal standards = = =

On 24 April 1922 new designs for royal standards were adopted .

The king ' s standard consisted of a red @-@ maroon square flag , bordered by a yellow strip with blue triangles . There were thirteen blue triangles to a side , with an additional four in the corners . The country ' s lesser coat of arms was found in the middle of the flag ; beneath it was placed the cross of the Order of Michael the Brave . After ascending the throne in 1930 , King Carol II stretched the cross to the edge of the standard , ' as a symbol of heroic royalty ' , and placed the lesser coat of arms above it . When his remains were returned to Romania in 2003 , his coffin was draped in this standard .

The queen ' s standard was similar to the king ' s , but the cross was missing . The crown prince ' s standard was dark blue , with a red border and yellow triangles ; the lesser coat of arms was in the center . The royal princes ' flag was similar but lacked a border . In 1940 , when Queen Helen returned to Romania , a flag was designed for the queen mother . This was similar to the queen ' s standard but also lacked a border .

== = Flags and standards of public officials == =

Contemporary vexilological albums (for instance the 1939 edition of Flaggenbuch) display a number of flags and standards of interwar Romanian public officials . The war minister ' s flag was a tricolor square with the letter ' M ' in white found on the blue stripe . The other ministers had similar flags but without the ' M ' . The jack employed by Romanian vessels was a yellow square bordered red with the coat of arms in the center . The ship captains ' standard was the national flag with a royal crown in the center . Pilot boats ' standard consisted of a national flag bordered in white . The flag ' s ratio was 3 : 6 and the thickness of the border 2 ; altogether , it had a 10 : 13 ratio . River police had as their standard a blue square with a white ' P ' in the center . The standard of the postal division of the Romanian Maritime Service had a white field (ratio 4 : 5) , with the fly ending in a sharp interior angle . A square national flag with the royal crown in the center appeared in the canton . A blue cord hung from the tricolor , catching a golden postal horn .

== = Military colors == =

Military flags were tricolors with the national coat of arms painted in the center . In the corners were found the golden monograms of Kings Ferdinand I , Carol II (two designs) or Michael I , crowned and surrounded by a wreath of golden oak leaves . The flagpoles ended in a metal eagle with wings facing downward , crowned and carrying a cross in its beak .

== = Naval flags == =

Admirals ' flags (including vice- and rear admirals ') , shown in the 1939 Flaggenbuch , were square Romanian tricolors . The Chief of the Naval General Staff had two white stars on the blue stripe of his flag and two crossed anchors ; the three elements were one beneath the other . The vice admiral ' s flag did not have the anchors , while the rear admiral ' s standard had just one star on the blue stripe .

Naval captains and commanders had a longer red stripe on their standard , ending in an angle pointing inward ; the ratio was about 11 : 13 . Deputy commanders of ships had a tricolored triangle for their emblem , in a 2 : 3 ratio .

== = Naval flags of World War II == =

Shortly before World War II , the flags of military vessels were changed . A specific design was adopted , the yellow portion taking the form of a cross with widened arms . The following models are shown in Flaggenbuch , 1939 :

== = Flags of the Romanian People ' s Republic == =

On 30 December 1947 , Romania was proclaimed a people ' s republic and all the kingdom ' s symbols were outlawed , including the coats of arms and the tricolor flags that showed them . On 8 January 1948 , Decree nr . 3 was issued , regarding specifications for the powers of the Presidium of the Romanian People ' s Republic . At article 7 , this provided that the republic ' s new coat of arms should be composed of : a tractor , a group of three chimneys against the field of a rising sun , surrounded by bound ears of wheat , tied by a ribbon with the inscription Republica Populară Română and the initials R. P. R. at the end of the ears . Article 8 dealt with the national flag : the colors of the Romanian People ' s Republic are : blue , yellow and red , arranged vertically , and having in the center of the yellow field the Coat of Arms of the Republic .

According to article 101 of the 1948 Constitution , The flag of the Romanian People ' s Republic is composed of the colors : blue , yellow and red , arranged vertically . In the middle is placed the national coat of arms . The 1952 Constitution , at article 103 , added a little detail : The flag of the Romanian People ' s Republic has the colors red , yellow and blue , arranged vertically with blue near the lance . In the middle is placed the coat of arms of the Romanian People ' s Republic . Neither the colors ' shades nor the flag ' s proportions were specified . According to provisions of the 1952 Constitution , a five @-@ pointed red star appeared at the upper edge of the coat of arms (itself altered in March 1948) , something that was also reflected on flags and official Romanian standards .

= = = Military colors ; standards = = =

On 28 July 1950 the Great National Assembly issued Decree nr . 189 for the establishment of the military colors of the Armed Forces of the Romanian People ' s Republic , as well as standards for the Military Air Force and the Naval Forces . Article 2 defined the units ' military colors as follows : three silk stripes colored red , yellow and blue , arranged vertically with blue situated near the flagpole . On the edges the flag has yellow metal fringes of wire , while the fly corners each have a tassel of the same wire . On the side oriented from the flagpole to the right , in the middle , is placed the coat of arms of the R. P. R. in natural colors . Above the coat of arms , on the same side , in an arched line , is written with letters of golden wire : Pentru Patria noastră (For our Fatherland) . On the other side and in the middle of the flag , the emblem worn on the uniforms of officers of the Armed Forces of the R. P. R. is applied . Under the emblem is written straight , with letters of golden wire , the unit ' s name . The flagpole ends in an ogive @-@ shaped tip , within which is found a five @-@ pointed star , in the center of which are written the initials RPR . The law ' s annex also specified the dimensions of the flag (100 centimeter long by 60 centimeter wide) , the coat of arms and the emblem (20 centimeter high) , the fringes (5 centimeter long) , the flagpole (250 centimeter long) and of the ogive (15 centimeter long by 7 centimeter wide) .

Article 3 described the Air Force ensign : it is made of sky @-@ blue silk . The ensign is rectangular , with each face having applied to it 18 red silk strips in the form of sunrays . On the edges , the ensign has fringes and tassels the same as on the military colors . In the middle of the face oriented from the flagpole to the right is affixed the coat of arms of the R. P. R. , while in the middle of the other face is affixed the emblem worn on the uniforms of officers belonging to the Armed Forces of the R. P. R. The coat of arms of the R. P. R. , the emblem and the inscriptions are identical to those of the military colors . The annex specified the dimensions of the ensign and the decorative elements , which were identical to those of the military colors . In the center of the flag , a ray had an angle of 10 . Also specified was the shade of blue to be used on the flag : iron blue .

Article 4 described the Romanian Navy ' s ensign thus : made of two pieces of white and blue silk , rectangular , laid horizontally , the blue one , beneath , having a width of 20 centimeter , while the white one , above , having a width of 40 centimeter . The coat of arms of the R. P. R. is applied to the middle of the white surface on the face oriented from the flagpole to the right , while on the other face , also in the middle of the white surface , the emblem worn on the uniforms of officers belonging to the Armed Forces of the R. P. R. is applied . The coat of arms , the emblem , the inscriptions , the

fringes and the tassels are the same as those of the military colors ? . The annex specified the flag ? s dimensions (also 100 × 60 centimeter) and those of the coat of arms (also 20 centimeter high) , as well as its distance to the edges of the white strip (11 centimeter above and 9 centimeter below) . The words ? Pentru Patria noastră ? ? (? For our Fatherland ?) were found on the white strip above the coat of arms , while ? Republica Populară Română ? ? and the unit ? s name were placed in the middle of the blue strip .

Decree nr . 190 of 1950 , published in the same issue of Buletinul Oficial , established the design of Army soldiers ? , officers ? and generals ? emblems . The officers ? emblem was a five @-@ pointed , red @-@ enamelled star 34 centimeter in diameter . In the center were two circles : the first , with a radius of 15 centimeter , was enamelled yellow and touched the star ? s interior angles , while the second , which had a radius of 11 centimeter , was enamelled blue and in the center had the golden initials ? R. P. R. ?

The following year , Decree nr . 124 of 20 July 1951 for the modification of art . 4 of Decree nr . 189 altered the Navy ? s ensign . The new regulation provided for three separate insignia : the flag of Navy land units , the flag of Navy ships and the flag of Coast Guard ships .

The Navy ? s land units had as their flag ? two pieces of silk , colored white and blue , rectangular in shape , laid horizontally , the blue piece below , and the white one above . In the middle of the white area facing from the flagpole to the right is affixed the coat of arms of the Romanian People ? s Republic , in natural colors , while on the other side , also in the middle of the white area , is affixed the symbol worn on the uniforms of officers belonging to the Armed Forces of the Romanian People ? s Republic . The coat of arms , emblem , inscriptions , fringes and tassels are the same as those of the military colors described in article 2 [of Decree nr . 189 of 1950] ? . According to this decree ? s annex , the flag ? s dimensions were 100 × 60 centimeter , the blue strip being 20 centimeter wide and the white 40 centimeter , the coat of arms was 20 centimeter high and it was 11 centimeter away from the top edge of the white strip and 9 centimeter away from the bottom .

Navy ships had an ensign consisting of a ? piece of ordinary rectangular canvas , with the colors white and blue printed on either side , in two stripes laid horizontally , the blue one below . The coat of arms of the Romanian People ? s Republic , in natural colors , is affixed to the middle of the white area on both sides . The ensign does not have fringes or tassels [and] is supplied with cords and a mechanism for raising it on the stern beam or the mast ? . The ensign for Coast Guard ships was different from that of Navy ships only in the color of the lower stripe ? Coast Guard green . The law ? s annex described proportions for the ensign ? s various elements ; the actual dimensions were to be fixed by the Armed Forces Ministry and the Interior Ministry depending on the ship ? s size and the place where the ensign was raised . Thus , the flag was 0 @.@ 6 times as wide as it was long , being divided thus : 1 ? 3 colored stripe and 2 ? 3 white stripe . The coat of arms was to be 1 ? 3 the height of the flag ? s width , being placed 1 ? 6 of this width away from the edges of the white stripe .

Between 1953 and 1964 , due to a spelling reform , the country ? s name was written on flags as Romînia and not România .

Decree nr . 93 of 17 April 1954 for the modification of art . 4 of Decree nr . 189 established new vexillological devices : the ensign of auxiliary Navy ships (the previous ensign continuing in use only for battleships) and pennants for Navy battleships , auxiliary Navy ships and Coast Guard vessels .

The ensign of auxiliary Navy ships was made of an ? ordinary canvas , rectangular and blue . In the upper corner on the side where it attaches to the cord , it has imprinted on both sides the colors white and light blue , in two horizontal stripes , the white one above . To the middle of the white area , on both sides , is affixed the coat of arms of the Romanian People ? s Republic , in natural colors ? . This ensign ? s proportions were indicated in the annex . It was 0 @.@ 6 times as wide as it was long : the upper left part of the standard was similar in proportion to the basic elements of the battleship standard , while its dimensions were 0 @.@ 5 of the flag ? s length and 0 @.@ 3 of its width .

Navy and Coast Guard vessels had a masthead pennant made of an ? ordinary rectangular canvas , red for Navy battleships , blue for auxiliary Navy ships and green for Coast Guard ships [the width is 0 @.@ 6 of the length] . At the edge near the cord , the colors white and light blue are imprinted

on both sides , in two horizontal stripes , for Navy ships and white and light green on Coast Guard ships [in proportions of 2 ? 3 and 1 ? 3 respectively ; this area ? s length is 0 @. @ 075 that of the pennant ? s length] . In both cases white shall be above . The coat of arms of the Romanian People ? s Republic , in natural colors is affixed to the middle of the white area on both sides [with a height 1 ? 3 of the pennant ? s width and located 1 ? 4 and 1 ? 6 of this width away from the edges of the white area] . At the other end , the pennant is cut in the form of a sharp angle pointing inward [the cut was 1 @. @ 2 times as deep as the length of the white and colored area near the cord] . The ships ? pennant is provided with a cord and a mechanism for being raised on a tall mast ? . The proportions of the pennant ? s component elements were indicated in the annex , with the actual dimensions remaining to be decided by the Armed Forces Ministry and the Interior Ministry .

= = Flags of the Socialist Republic of Romania = =

The Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Romania , adopted in 1965 , provided the following in article 118 : ? The flag of the Socialist Republic of Romania has the colors red , yellow and blue , arranged vertically , with blue near the flagpole . The coat of arms of the Socialist Republic of Romania is affixed to the middle ? .

Decree nr . 972 of 5 November 1968 regarding the insignia of the Socialist Republic of Romania (RSR) described in detail the coat of arms , seal , flag and state anthem of the republic . The attached commentary noted that , in the absence of corresponding regulations , ? there have appeared mistaken interpretations of these [constitutional specifications] , incorrect or diverging usages of the state insignia ? . Chapter IV of the decree is entirely devoted to describing the flag and the protocol for its use . Thus , the flag is defined as having a ratio of 2 : 3 , with the colored stripes of equal dimensions . The regular colors were printed in the annex and not expressly named . The coat of arms was placed in the center ; its height was 2 ? 5 the flag ? s width . As before , it was provided that the flag ? s proportions could differ for ornamental purposes , but the coat of arms must always be in the center , vertical . Articles 13 @-@ 21 specifically and exhaustively covered flag protocol , describing where it was to be raised permanently and temporarily (art . 13) , the protocol for raising it outside the country ? s borders (art . 14) and during demonstrations by socialist organizations (art . 15) , the conditions for lowering it to half @-@ staff (art . 16 , 17 and 18 , with art . 20 describing exceptions to the rule) , the conditions and manner for draping caskets with the flag (art . 19) , as well as the place of the Romanian flag in case it flew besides one or more foreign flags (art . 21) .

= = = Flags of the President , Prime Minister and Minister of the Armed Forces = = =

The President of the RSR (until 1974 the President of the Council of State) and the prime minister had their own standard , a square Romanian tricolor with a white edge and a red border beyond that ; the RSR ? s coat of arms was in the center , 2 ? 3 the height of the tricolor ? s width . The standard was decorated with fringes of golden thread and tassels of the same material . The flag of the Minister of the Armed Forces of the RSR consisted of a white pennant in a 1 : 2 ratio . The flag of the RSR was placed in the canton , while two red five @-@ pointed stars occupied the fly .

= = = Military colors and standards = = =

Military colors and standards adopted during the Romanian People ? s Republic were modified or completely changed by Decree nr . 106 of 24 December 1966 regarding regulations for granting the military colors of units and large units from all military branches , modifying the display protocol for ensigns and pennants of navy and Coast Guard ships , establishing a distinctive emblem and commanders ? emblems for navy and Coast Guard vessels , a jack for navy ships and a distinctive ensign for Coast Guard ships .

In the attached commentary , it was mentioned that the previous regulations were no longer valid , primarily because :

military colors of naval land units no longer featured the national flag colors , but only white and blue ;

ensigns and pennants of the Navy and Coast Guard ships no longer featured the national flag colors and thus ? even at close distances ? Romanian ships could be confused with those of other nations ;

the air force flag was no longer necessary , as it did not correspond to the new organization of the military ? s aviation branch .

Article 2 of the decree provided that ? the military colors are granted by the Council of State of the Romanian Socialist Republic to units and large units from all military branches from the Armed Forces Ministry , as well as to units from the Internal Affairs Ministry , at their founding . The flag is granted , depending on the case , at the initiative of the armed forces minister or the internal affairs minister . The granting of the flag is done in the name of the Council of State of the Romanian Socialist Republic by a representative of the armed forces , respectively of the internal affairs minister ? . The first clause of this article was modified thus by Decree nr . 150 of 19 June 1974 regarding the modification of certain laws and decrees : ? the flag is granted by presidential decree to units and large units of all military branches from the Armed Forces Ministry , as well as to units from the Internal Affairs Ministry , at their founding ? .

Ensigns of navy and Coast Guard vessels consisted of the military colors of the respective units .

The pennant was the device that indicated a ship was armed and commanded by a navy officer . It consisted of an ? ordinary canvas , in the shape of an isosceles triangle , with the base toward the attaching mechanism and with the flag colors and coat of arms of the Romanian Socialist Republic printed on both sides ? .

The jack was ? an ordinary square canvas , having printed on both sides the flag colors and coat of arms of the Romanian Socialist Republic . Two crossed white anchors of the same size as the coat of arms are affixed to the blue area ? .

The distinctive ensign of Coast Guard vessels consisted of ? an ordinary white rectangular canvas , with the half near the attaching mechanism green , upon which is affixed a white anchor ? .

The dimensions of these insignia , as well as their manner of use , were left to the Armed Forces Ministry to decide by regulation .

Decree nr . 90 of 27 April 1977 regarding the establishment of military colors for patriotic guards and the regulation of its granting created a special symbol for units of the Patriotic Guards . This was similar to military colors of military units , with the exception of the inscription on the flag ? s reverse side ? ? G?rzile patriotice ? ? in an arched line above the coat of arms , and the administrative unit in which the formation was located (the municipality or county) , in a straight line beneath the coat of arms . Its dimensions were indicated in the annex : the canvas was 100 centimeter long and 66 centimeter wide , the text was 6 centimeter high , the fringes 5 centimeter long , the flagpole 240 centimeter long and 4 centimeter wide , while the ogive at the end of the flagpole was 15 centimeter high . According to the Decree , the flag was granted to a unit by commanders of county @-@ level or Bucharest @-@ level Patriotic Guards , or by representatives of the General Staff of the Patriotic Guards from the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party , following a presidential decree for this purpose . Patriotic Guards that distinguished themselves in training exercises for national defense and that comprised at least 2000 fighters were eligible to receive flags .

= = = Naval rank flags = = =

Decree nr . 1016 of 1966 created a legal framework for the establishment of distinctive rank flags and commanders ? rank flags , which were raised on Navy and Coast Guard ships , in accordance with the services ? sailing regulations .

A distinctive rank flag was raised when ? the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party , the president of the Council of State of the Romanian Socialist Republic or the president of the Council of Ministers of the Romanian Socialist Republic [was] on an official visit ? aboard ship .

The commanders ? rank flag was flown in similar situations for : ? the minister of the armed forces

of the Romanian Socialist Republic , the commander of the navy , the commander of a large unit of ships of the commander of a group of ships temporarily constituted ? .

The form , colors and dimensions of the flags remained to be fixed by regulation .

= = Flag of the Romanian Revolution of 1989 = =

Starting on 17 December 1989 , during the revolution at Timișoara , the coat of arms of the Romanian Socialist Republic began to be removed from flags , being viewed as a symbol of Nicolae Ceaușescu ' s dictatorial regime . Most often , this was accomplished by cutting or ripping out the middle of the yellow stripe , giving rise to the term " the flag with the hole " .

Decree @-@ Law nr . 2 of 27 December 1989 regarding the membership , organization and functioning of the Council of the National Salvation Front and of the territorial councils of the National Salvation Front provided at article 1 , among other matters , that ? the national flag is the traditional tricolor of Romania , with the colors laid out vertically , in the following order , starting from the flagpole : blue , yellow , red ? .

= = Storage , restoration and conservation of old flags = =

In the 19th century , after a modern army was established in the two Danubian Principalities , old military and princely flags were deposited at the Army Arsenal . In 1919 these were all transferred to the National Military Museum . Flags that witnessed the Romanian War of Independence were replaced in 1902 and kept until 1928 @-@ 29 in the throne room of the Royal Palace , after which they entered the Military Museum ' s collection . In 1971 a significant number of old flags was given to the National History Museum .

In 1966 , there were 1075 Romanian and foreign flags at the Central Military Museum , of which 949 were original , including the flagpole , top decoration and canvas , 42 were copies and reconstructions , and for 84 , just the flagpole and decoration remained . Together with other categories of flags , standards , ship flags , pennants , sashes and ties , the collection reached 1248 items . By the mid @-@ 2000s , the museum ' s flag and standard collection counted 10 @,@ 826 objects .

A majority of Romania ' s older flags have a field that is either deteriorated (some are missing almost entirely) or slashed by bullets or swords .

Museum experts have taken steps to preserve flags , including : introducing and stitching a double tulle into the majority of flags (starting in the 1930s) , washing certain dust @-@ covered flags using special methods , placing dark protective covers over the flags to shield the fabric from light , replacing seriously deteriorated exemplars with copies , photographing flags in order to avoid repeated manipulation , and climate @-@ controlling storage areas and exhibit halls . Certain flags are also subject to restoration work .

= = Acts of heroism under the flag = =

During the Romanian War of Independence , Romanian troops were inspired to bravery by their flag ' s presence . During an attack on 30 August 1877 , Captain Nicolae Valter Mărcineanu fell in action while inserting the 8th line Regiment ' s flag into the parapet of the Grivița redoubt . Troops from the 3rd cavalry Regiment were among the first to enter Plevna , wading through the Vit with the flag before them .

Following these acts of bravery , the military colors were decorated in a solemn ceremony on 8 October 1878 . Units that participated in the Siege of Grivița (6th line infantry Regiment , *dorobanți* Regiments 6 , 10 , 13 and 14) , that fought at Plevna (6th line infantry Regiment , *dorobanți* Regiments 6 and 14 , *vânători* Battalions 2 and 4 , cavalry Regiments 3 and 7) , and Smârdan and Vidin (6th line infantry Regiment , 3rd artillery Regiment) received the Danube Crossing Cross (*Crucea Trecerii Dunării*) . The 13th *dorobanți* Regiment also received the Order of the Star of Romania , along with three other regiments , while *vânători* Battalion 2 received the Great Cross of

the Order of the Star of Romania . Among the others decorated were the 9th doroban?i Regiment and the 4th and 6th line infantry Regiments . Moreover , on 23 September 1879 in Gala?i , the flag of the 6th line infantry Regiment received the Military Bravery medal from Prince Milan IV of Serbia .

World War I also saw sacrifices in defense of the military colors , as a symbol of the duty to defend the nation ? s land and military honor . In October 1916 , the flag guard of Neagoe Basarab infantry Regiment 83 met a cavalry patrol of the German Army . Although one of his arms was sliced off , the regimental flag @-@ bearer stood his ground until his comrades jumped to his defense and saved the flag . A month later , the Dolj infantry Regiment 1 found itself in dire circumstances , deciding to bury the flag in a peasant ? s yard in Izbiceni . It was recovered in autumn 1918 after the occupying foreign armies had been driven out . Coast Guard Regiment 1 also faced difficulty in fighting at the Olt Defile . Then , the unit commander decided to bury the eagle from atop the flag , while the canvas was wrapped around the body of a troop who snuck through the confusion . The flag was placed back on a pole in Moldavia and took part in the 1917 campaigns . At the end of the war , it was decorated with the Order of Michael the Brave , the Commemorative Cross of the War of 1916 @-@ 1918 and the Victoria medal .

Many other military colors were decorated at war ? s end . To name but a few examples , heavy artillery Regiment 1 received the Order of the Star of Romania (rank of knight with swords) and the ribbon of Military Virtue . Heavy artillery Regiment 4 was decorated with the Order of the Star of Romania and the Commemorative Cross of the War of 1916 @-@ 1918 . The Mircea Regiment 32 received the Order of Michael the Brave . Infantry Regiment 70 , ? giving proof of the noblest spirit of sacrifice and a powerful patriotism ? , received the Order of Michael the Brave Class III and the Commemorative Cross 1916 @-@ 1918 .

During World War II , units ? flags that appeared in battle were also decorated . In action on the Western Front , ant @-@ aircraft artillery Regiment 6 and vântori Regiment 2 were decorated with the Order of Aeronautic Virtue with swords . Among the units that received the Order of Michael the Brave with swords were cavalry Regiment 2 , which distinguished itself in battles on the Some? and Mure? rivers and in Czechoslovakia , infantry Regiment 96 , which broke through the Tisza and liberated Budapest , Regiments 18 artillery and 34 infantry , and Battalions 7 and 8 vântori de munte .