



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 March 2008

Excellency,

I write this note to thank you for the beautiful Amulet, the "Martisor" which depicts the arrival of Spring in your tradition. This was very thoughtful of you.

I look forward to continuing our personal cooperation and friendship and to our continued very good relation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Asha-Rose Migiro

His Excellency  
Mr. Mihnea Motoc  
Permanent Representative of Romania  
to the United Nations  
New York

DSG f.i.e. (would you like a thank you note?)

Permanent Mission of Romania  
to the United Nations  
New York

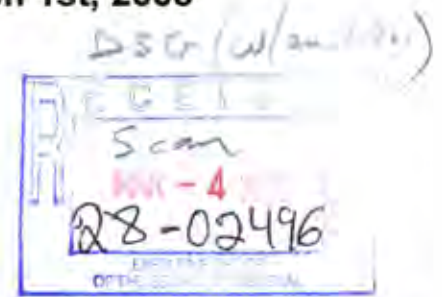


Mission permanente de la Roumanie  
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies  
New York

573-577 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10016 – Tel. (212) 682-3273, 818-1491 Fax: (212) 682-9746

E-mail: [misiune@romaniaun.org](mailto:misiune@romaniaun.org); homepage: <http://www.romaniaun.org>

New York, March 1st, 2008



Dear Madam,

I have the pleasure to offer you, upon the arrival of Spring, a symbol very special among Romanian traditions. Every first of March a „Martisor” is given to ladies in celebration of the coming Spring and Joy.

You may wish to look up the enclosed word on!

*With all my very best wishes,*

Mihnea MOTOC

Ambassador

H.E. Mrs. Asha-Rose Migiro  
Deputy Secretary-General

New York

## MARTISOR



Romanians have a beautiful ancient tradition on the first day of March : **Martisor** (The Amulet of the Coming Spring and Joy). Its name is a diminutive from the name of Martie - the Romanian word for March. If you love history, it is possible to notice a similarity between Martie and the ancient Roman God "Mars" or "Marte" in Latin language. You are right because in ancient Rome this God was a symbol of revival, green fields, flocks and love. They used to celebrate their God on the first day of spring exactly as Tracians, later Dacians and nowadays Romanians. So Dacians borrowed the Latin word for naming their first month of spring.

The Dacians had that tradition on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Dacians God who was celebrated at the beginning of March was named "Marsyas Silen". He was the inventor of flute (shepherd's whistle) and he had the most greatest influence upon the entire nature. The Amulet's meaning was greatly enlarged. It was considered to be a protective charm for children and animals in the next coming year. Those tiny pebbles were changed into a couple of yarns, one colored in red and one colored in white. Red meant the Sun, the power of fire, passion and woman, and white meant the benefits of water, clouds, winter but also man's intelligence. The combination of those colors can be interpreted as the union of man and woman, these two opposite forces who will determine a new life cycle.

At the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century the beautiful Amulet was found in all Romanian regions. Especially children and women wore around their necks or on their left hands two woolen yarns (one red, one white) knitted together and a small silver or golden coin hung on them. The belief was that those who wore that Amulet were protected and would have good luck in the next year. It was written in books that young Moldavian girls wore Martisor from March 1<sup>st</sup> till March 12<sup>th</sup>. After two weeks, they used to tie their hair with that special red-white yarn waiting to see the first spring birds coming to their village. Only after that event, the young girls took out the Amulet and hang it to the first tree they saw in blossom. In Romania this Amulet is a symbol of coming Spring and Joy.

[www.x3m.ro/martie/martisoren.html](http://www.x3m.ro/martie/martisoren.html)