

LUGOJ

Local Council Office: Lugoj, Victoriei Square, no. 4, telephone 0256/352240, fax 0256/350393;

Web page address:
<http://www.primarialugoj.ro>

Geographical coordinates:

45°41'10" lat. N;

21°54' 2" long. E

Historical landmarks:

1334 - the existence of Lugoj was mentioned in the papal tithes registry;

1368 - the town of **Lugas** was first mentioned in documents;

22.08.1376 - a diploma issued by king Sigismund of Louxemburg refers to (**Castrum Lugas**);

1441-1442 - the county head of Timiș John Hunyadi fortified the city with trenches, ramparts and palisades during a campaign against the Ottoman invasion;

1551 - **Isabella**, the widow of king **John Zapolya**, awards Lugoj a diploma granting privileged rights and an emblem;

1552-1658 - the **Banat region of Lugoj - Caransebeș** withstands the Ottoman assaults;

- the ban of Lugoj supports **Michael the Brave** in the battle of Șelimbăr, when the Wallachian prince defeats the voivode of Transylvania, **Andrew Báthory**;

1581 - the Old Testament of Orăștie (the first Romanian-language biblical text, including paragraphs from Moses's books - Genesis and Exodus) is translated by the Lugoj priest **Moise Peștișel**;

01.1601 - allegedly, **Michael the Brave** pulls in at the Post Office Inn from Lugoj;

1648 - **Ștefan Fogarași** translates a



Calvinistic Catechism, from Hungarian into Romanian, paper printed by Martin Maior, and patronized by **Acațiu Barcsai**, ban of Lugoj;

1658 - prince **Acațiu Barcsai** demands the people of Lugoj and Caransebeș to surrender to the Ottomans who take over Lugoj, installing a military garrison led by an agha;

1660 - the geographer and philosopher **Evlia Celebi** writes in his book "Seyahatname" ("**The Book of Travels**") that "Lugoj is a strong settlement of over 300 houses, on the right bank of Timiș river", stating that the "heathens" are Romanians;

25.09.1695 - not far from Lugoj, a battle between the Habsburgs and Ottomans unfolds, concluded with the defeat of the first; their commander, general Veterani, dies during the battle;

1699 - the Ottomans demolish "the Fortress of Lugoj";

1718 - Lugoj falls under the Habsburg reign and becomes the seat of Lugoj - Făget district;

- Vienna colonizes the city with German population, leading to the creation of German Lugoj on the left bank of Timiș river;

THE CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF LUGOJ

BOLDEA FRANCISC	Mayor	IVAN DRAGOȘ SEBASTIAN, LC Member	DLP
AMBRUȘ IOAN	Vice Mayor	GAIDOS ALBIN, LC Member	NLP
AMZA IOAN, LC Member	DLP	GALESCU CRISTIAN PAVEL, LC Member	SDP
BARBONI IOAN, LC Member	GRP	ILIE RODICA GEORGETA, LC Member	SDP
BÎNĂ AURELIA, LC Member	SDP	GÂRBEA SEPTIMIU, LC Member	SDP
BĂDINA NICU, LC Member	SDP	POSZAR IOSIF, LC Member	DUHR
BLIDARIU ȘTEFAN, LC Member	DLP	SERENDAN ADRIAN, LC Member	DLP
CORBEANU GABRIELA, LC Member	NLP	STANCIU BUJOR, LC Member	DLP
COȚOLAN VOICHIȚA OFELIA, LC Member	GRP	SZÚCS DIANA MARIA, LC Member	DLP
CRĂCIUNESCU IOSIF, LC Member	SDP		

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- the residents of German Lugoj are privileged, as proven by the fact that, despite the similar land areas occupied by the two quarters, old Lugoj and German Lugoj, the Romanian community pays an annual tax of 3,746 florins, and the Swabians colonists pay only 197 florins, i.e. almost twenty times less;

1726 - oberknyaz **Ioan Raț** from Mehadia restores the tower of the old XIVth century church, damaged by fire in 1535 and 1645;

1759 - building of the Romanian orthodox church "Assumption of Mary" begins - concluded in 1766 ("The Two Towers Church");

1778 - following the incorporation of Banat region into Hungary, Lugoj becomes the seat of Caraș county;

1795 - Romanian Lugoj and German Lugoj are united under the name of "**Lugoj administrative borough**";

XVIIIth century - the oldest Wallachian-Latin dictionary is drawn up by **Anonimus Lugosiensis**, document discovered by **Bogdan Petriceicu Hașdeu**;

28 October 1805 - **Johann Nepomuk Preyer** is born, writer, historian and mayor of Timișoara (d. 12.10.1888);

24 December 1824 - **Vasile Maniu** is born, Romanian publicist, historian, writer and lawyer, deputy, member of the Romanian Academy (d. 10.03.1901);

1830 - the Romanian middle-class from Lugoj creates the revolutionary organization "**The Constitution**", promoting the principles of the 1789 French revolution;

- the organization was discovered by the imperial authorities in 1834, and its members and leaders were imprisoned;

1841 - **Eftimie Murgu**, born in Rudăria, Caraș-Severin county, settles in Lugoj;

1842 - a great fire affects 400 houses and important buildings, among which the Assumption of Mary Church, the St. Nicholas Tower and the Greek-Catholic Church;

25 April 1843 - botanist **August Kanitz** was born, corresponding member of the Romania Academy since 1882 (d. 30.06.1896);

THE LION TOWER FROM BANAT

St. Nicholas Tower (belfry) - of medium height - is one of the oldest historical structures of Lugoj. It was part of an old church, built in the XIVth century, but later destroyed (burnt down), in the XVIIIth century, following a religious strife. Originally, the belfry was also used as an observation tower. The St. Nicholas Tower was restored in 1726 by the Romanian oberknyaz of Mehadia, in the baroque style of the Banat region (exterior volutes). The original

inscription ("pisanie") on the church facade - where St. Nicholas's embossed portrait is located - was preserved: "AEDIFICATA HAEC ECLESIA PER ME IOANNEM RATZ DE MEHEDIA SUPREMUM PREFECTUM INCLITORUM DISTRICTUM LUGOS, CARANSEBES ET LIPPA. ANNO DOMINI 1726 DIEE 19 IUNI", meaning "**This church was (re)built by Ioan Raț of Mehadia, supreme prefect of the glorious districts of Lugoj, Caransebeș and Lipova. Anno Domini 1726, day 19 June**". A marble plate embedded in the tower wall holds the carved **coat of arms of Banat, the lion of Banat in the middle**, topped by the coat of arms of the Romanian districts mentioned in the inscription. Although the related church burnt down, an inventory (dated 1775) of the religious artifacts inside the church still exists, containing items such as different silver, wood, iron or golden plated vessels, coated crosses, two bells, vestments, also Romanian books, such as a Gospel (1746), a Liturgy book (1767), an Apostle (1743), a Bible (1688), a Legal Code (1652), an Octoih (1774), the New Testament (1648), all of them printed in Wallachia, which proved the sermon was held in Romanian language. It is said the tower was made of wood, in the XIVth century, by the monks from Muntenia, and its stone foundation was built by the oberknyaz Ioan Raț of Mehadia in the XVIIIth century; the names of some of Lugoj's clergymen, such as protopope **Spasoe** and **Petru Popovici**, also date back to this century.



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06.1848 - the 2nd Great National Assembly is held on the Field of Liberty, headed by **Eftimie Murgu**, where the Romanians from Banat express their wishes;

23 December 1849 - Romanian lawyer and politician **Coriolan Brediceanu** is born (d. 25.01.1909);

1850 - Lugoj becomes the seat of the Greek-Catholic Diocese from Banat;

1middle of XIXth century - Lugoj has a **population of 8 373**;

- the city slowly develops, as administrative, commercial and crafts center;

16 October 1863 - **Aurel C. Popovici** is born, Romanian lawyer, publicist and politician (d. 9.02.1917);

1864 - the alcohol factory is founded;

1869 - writer **Ioan Popovici Bănățeanul** is born; his most famous writing is the short story "In the world" (d. 29.08.1893);

2 April 1877 - composer **Tiberiu Brediceanu** is born, (d.19.12.1968);

1880 - "The Awakening" ("Deșteptarea") newspaper is published;

1881 - the Caraș-Severin county is founded and Lugoj is named the county seat;

20 October 1882 - **Béla Ferenc Dezső Blaskó** (alias **Béla Lugosi**) is born, the famous Count Dracula actor (d.16.08.1956);

1888 - the Arad born composer and conductor **Ion Vidu** begins his career at the Confessional School from Lugoj;

- **Jakob Muschong** and his wife build the first Brick Factory ("M. Bohn & Comp.", on 10 Herendeștiului str.);

1889 - Lugoj is named municipality;

21 November 1895 - tenor **Traian Grozăvescu (Grosăvescu)** is born, son of accountant Costi Grosăvescu, born in Teregova (d. 19.02.1927);

16 May 1900 - **Aurel Ciupe** is born, Romanian painter, emotional and delicate colourist, director at the Banat Museum (d. 8.07.1988);

1901 - "The Flag" newspaper is published;

1902 - the Iron Bridge and the two customs points on each end are built;

8 June 1902 - the horse riding champion **Henri Rang** is born (d. 25.12.1946);

1906 - **Valeriu Braniște** acknowledges that almost 3 000 citizens of Lugoj, mostly craftsmen and workers, side with the socialist movement;

13 September 1908 - **Georges Devereux (György Deutch-Dobó)** is born, founder of ethnopschoanalysis and ethnopsychiatry (d. 28.05.1985);

3 August 1917 - philosopher and historian **Ion Dimitrie Suci** is born (d. 1982);

3.11.1918 - a Great National Assembly is held in Lugoj, proclaiming the Romanian Nation's right to self-determination;

1 December 1918 - the elected representatives of Lugoj attends the Alba Iulia Great National Assembly;

9 May 1920 - **Delia Pia Bârlea** is born, playwright, prose writer and poet in the dialect of Banat region (d. 17.10.1993);

12.11.1923 - king **Ferdinand I** visits the Romanian Orthodox Church, the hospital, the orphanage and the alcohol factory;

1925 - Caraș-Severin county is divided in Caraș county, county seat in Reșița, and Severin county, county seat in Lugoj;

19 February 1926 - composer **György Kurtág** is born;

11 April 1929 - actor **Alexandru Iosif Ternovits** is born;

1929 - **Walter Mihai Klepper** is born, composer, violonist, professor (d. 2008);

1935 - the Union Memorial is built in front of the former Prefect's Office of Severin county, created by the Transylvanian sculptor **Radu Moga**;

1937 - the restoration of the Romanian Orthodox Church with Two Towers begins; the present day mural is painted by professor **Atanasie Demian**, and the iconostasis is painted by **Aurel Ciupe**;

4 April 1938 - **Aristide Buhoiu** is born, journalist and writer (d. 17.09.2006);

9 July 1938 - composer and conductor **Gelu Mircea Stan** is born;

29 March 1939 - **Mircea Lăzărescu** is born, senior university professor, psychiatrist;

1941 - **Nicolae Breban** and his family take refuge in Lugoj (his father was arrested in 1940 in Transylvania which was under Hungarian Horthyist occupation);

23 February 1941 - actor and writer **Mircea Belu** is born (d. 2002);

4.02.1942 - the 40-year celebration of the foundation of the Romanian Craftsmen Union;

22 November 1942 - writer and publicist **Lucian Erwin Bureriu** is born;

9 January 1943 - **Dan Florița-Seracin** is

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born, prose writer;

14 January 1943 - **Iosif Ștefan Drăgulescu** is born, former minister of Health, former deputy, senator, rector of "Victor Babeș" University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Timișoara;

14 June 1943 - **Traian Simu** is appointed director of Severin County Museum;

3 August 1943 - writer **Cornel Ungureanu** is born, literary critic and essay writer;

27.08.1943 - the Queen Mary Memorial is assembled in Lugoj (brought from Oradea);

15 January 1944 - **Viorel Toma** is born, painter, belle arts professor;

29.02. 1944 - opening of the **Army Club** of the city garrison;

29 June 1944 - **Iosif Petrică Toma** is born in Tapia-Lugoj, singer of popular and choral music;

11 February 1945 - sculptor **Constantin Grangure** is born;

16.02.1945 - thousands of citizens, assembled by Communists, militate for a government led by the Romanian Democratic Front;

26 March 1946 - **Constantin Răducanu** is born, painter;

1949 - opening of the History Museum, comprising the collections initiated in 1905;

15.01.1950 - the International Association of Democratic Lawyers is created;

16.01.1950 - "Constructorul" sports club is established;

22 May 1951 - poet and prose writer **Constantin Buiciuc** is born;

5 November 1951 - **Daniela Oravițan** is born, painter;

1951 - more than 500 students attend The Vocational School of Arts from Lugoj;

28 October 1953 - **Victor Neumann** is born, historian and philosopher;

16 July 1955 - **Carmen Blaga** is born, literary critic, translator;

1956 - the radio wire broadcast station from Lugoj accumulated over 2700 broadcasting hours, 120 hours on local issues;

2 October 1956 - **Lia Lucia Epure** (Petric) is born, publicist, PhD, director of the regional daily paper "Ziua de Vest";

14.05.1958 - the **Workers' Sports Club from Lugoj** is created, the first of its kind in the former region of Timișoara (Banat);

10.09.1960 - lyric artist **Dan Patacă** is born;

16 December 1962 - prose writer and publicist **Cristian Nourăș Ghinea** is born;

1965 - **ASMR LUGOJ** is the first club to enroll the football player **Petre Mehedințu**, future captain of "Politehnica Timișoara";

22 March 1965 - **Adriana Lucaciu** is born, graphic artist, dean of the Faculty of Graphic Arts from Timișoara;

12.04.1965 - opening of **Simion Lucaciu's**

THE POST OFFICE INN (PUB)

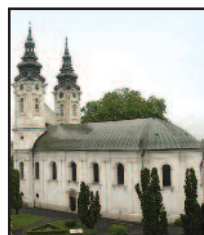
Next to the Lugoj post office, one can find the building accommodating the coach station linking Banat and Transylvania, and its stagecoach service (a place where horses were replaced), as well as an inn for travellers. The building, known as the Post Office Inn or "Pub", had been built on the ruins of a XVIth century structure, which - according to the documents - was offered, along with a land area, to George și Adam Fogarassi by the prince of Transylvania, Mihai Appafy. The popular stories claim that Michael the Brave rested here during his travel to Prague. Two hundred years later, the Post Office Inn offered shelter to the first ruler of the United Principalities (1859-1862) and of Romania (1862-1866), Alexander John Cuza, on his way to exile in Germany. The one-storey building, with stone vaulted foundation, has an "L" shaped functional design, with undercrofts, and massive brick archways facing the inner yard. The facade is simple, the window frames have no decorations, suggesting a late baroque style. Nowadays, the former Post Office Inn is the headquarters of the Romanian Orthodox Eparchy and Parish, and one of the rooms on the first floor houses an impressive collection of icons, books, religious items and documents regarding the history of Lugoj and Banat, such as a copy of the New Testament printed in Belgrade (in 1648), Șerban Cantacuzino's Bible (1688), Romanian books printed in Oltenia, a golden plated cross dated from 1782, a silver manufactured ark dated from 1755, given by the oberknjaz Gavrilă Guran and others.



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LEGEND OF THE OBERKNYAZ GUREAN

The Romanian Orthodox Church "Assumption of Mary" (successor of the XIVth century gothic-byzantine church) is an impressive building: 42 m long, 21.5 m width, and 57 m high, and the entry gates reach up to 3.8 m. The religious establishment was founded by the oberknyaz Gavrilă Gurean. The believers named it "The Two Towers Church": the left tower holds three smaller bells, and the right tower holds two big bells. The shape of the steeples is similar to the baroque style. One of the bells was brought from Greece in 1778. This is the church where the famous choir "Ion Vidu" from Lugoj sustains a recital on Easter day. The building of the "The Two Towers Church" and its benefactor are mentioned in a very sad legend. It is told that oberknyaz Gavrilă Gurean had a female servant. While herding the lambs to the pasture, she found a bag of silver coins. The oberknyaz found out, murdered her and took her money. Later on, Gurean found more coins, buried not too deep into the ground, on the same field where the girl herded the lambs. Filled with remorse, he donated all the money in 1759 for building the church. The church - sanctified on 28 August 1766 - was painted by Ștefan Zugravul - who probably came from Wallachia, the one who also painted Jesus Christ wearing a Romanian popular shirt in the Densuș church from Hunedoara county...



painting exhibition at the Vocational School of Arts from Lugoj;

2 September 1967 - prose writer **Tinu Pârvolescu** is born;

13 February 1968 - poet **Adriana Weimar** is born;

1969 - **Daniel Brocea** is born (murdered on 20 December 1989 in Lugoj by the MAPN master sergeant Pavel Dumitru). **Martyr Hero.**

1.11.1969 - the 200-year anniversary of the Lugoj school building by the oberknyaz **Gavrilă Gurean**;

14 July 1969 - **Elicondu Iovan** is born, painter, graphic artist, photographer;

16 July 1970 - **Mario Balint** is born, prose writer and publicist;

15.01.1971 - **Pongracz Norbert Alexandru** is born (murdered on 24 December 1989 in Reșița). **Martyr Hero.**

19 April 1972 - **Grațiela Benga** is born, literary critic;

09.1973 - **I. C. Drăgan** launches his book "Wandering in Europe", at the "Ion Vidu" bookshop, introduced by the literary critic **Valeriu Râpeanu**;

1974 - Lugoj has a population of 44,000;

21 October 1976 - gymnast **Lavinia Miloșovici** is born, olympic champion;

20.12. 1989 - Lugoj becomes the 2nd communism free city in Romania, after Timișoara;

after 1990 - western industrial corporations

set up branches in Lugoj: Villeroy and Boch, Rieker, Werzalit, Honeywell, Autoliv;

20.06.1990 - the weekly newspaper "**The Re-awakening**" is published (editorial director Corneliu Popovici);

1991 - the "Iosif Constantin Drăgan" University is founded;

17.08.1994 - the TV station **TEN TV-Lugoj** begins to broadcast;

2002 --the city has **46,189** permanent residents;

17.06.2007 - **Ana Marcu**, born in Lugoj becomes "**Miss Romania-USA**" in Chicago;

24.01.2009 - The Lugoj Military Circle celebrates nine decades from the creation of the 90th Infantry Regiment, the first Romanian Military Unit established after December 1st, 1918;

2010 - the Municipal Hospital falls under the City Hall administration;

Total population on 1 January 2009: 44,796 persons, of which:

- male = 21,043 persons

- female = 23,753 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2009: 17,952

Villages administered by the city: Măguri and Tapia;

Educational institutions: National Colleges: Lugoj (2); Vocational Schools = Lugoj (3); "Filaret Barbu" Music and Graphic Arts School from Lugoj; Primary and Elementary schools: Lugoj (7) and Măguri;

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THE OLD IRON BRIDGE

The wooden bridge linking the two banks of Timiș in 1901 - right in the middle of Lugoj - deteriorated. A new bridge was necessary, so the municipality ordered over 185 tones of beams and iron fittings from the Reșița Plant, hauled to Lugoj in chariots drawn by four oxen. The official opening of the bridge took place in August



1902, facilitating the transfer between South-East and Western Europe and the new structure became the city's emblem. The two banks of Timiș river have also been re-structured. Several decades later, the second bridge crossing the Timiș river was built. The stretch of land between the iron and concrete bridges had a promenade like appearance. The river banks were fortified with stone bank slopes against flooding, and were turned into esplanades. The river's left bank holds the busts of three big city personalities: Ion Vidu, Coriolan Brediceanu and Traian Grozăvescu. The bust of the great tenor Traian Grozăvescu was placed in front of the Popular Theater (established in 1842), where Grozăvescu performed on several occasions. The bust of Coriolan Brediceanu - the lawyer of Romanians from Banat during the Austrian-Hungarian rule - is placed in front of the highschool with the same name.

Kindergartens with normal hours: Lugoj (9), Tapia and Măguri; Kindergartens with extended hours = Lugoj (7); Children's Club from Lugoj; School Sports Club from Lugoj.

Medical facilities: Hospitals = Lugoj (2); Clinics = Lugoj (4); Human pharmacies = Lugoj (15); Veterinary clinics = Lugoj (7); Veterinary pharmacies = Lugoj (4).

Cultural Institutions: The History, Ethnography and Art Museum; "Traian Grozăvescu" Municipal Theatre; the Municipality Cultural Center; the Municipal Library (founded in 1953); "Pro Arte" Gallery; Community Centres: Măguri and Tapia.

Fitness and sports facilities: Gymnasiums: (three); Youth Stadium, swimming pools (two), Fitness center (Lugoj);

Churches: Romanian Orthodox Churches: The Church "Assumption of Mary" (1759); "St. Constantine and Elena" Chapel (1883); "Resurrection of Jesus" Church (2004);

"Pentecost" Church (in 1991); "St. Joseph the New from Partoș" Church (2002); "St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel" Chapel (1920); "Assumption of Mary" Chapel (1895); "Birth of Mary" Church from Măguri (1936); "Saint Demetrius" Church from Tapia (1870); the Roman-Catholic Church (1733-1735); the Greek-Catholic Church (1843-1854); the Reformed Church (1906); the Ukrainian Church (1993); the Baptist Church "Harul" (1992); the Pentecostal Church (1995); the Synagoga (1843); the Evangelical Church; the Seventh-day Adventist Church; the Lipovan Orthodox Old-Rite Church;

Annual Church Festivals and other cultural events:

Lugoj and Măguri (15 August - the Feast of the Assumption), Tapia (20 July - Saint Elijah); The Day of Lugoj (20 December);

CITIZENS OF HONOUR

Nicolae Titulescu, Constantin Atanasie Bona, Cornel Petrassevich, Lavinia Miloșovici (1992); Gheorghe Afrim (1995); Iosif Constantin Drăgan, Mihai Brediceanu, Dan Popescu (1998); Gelu Barbu, Ilie Ilașcu, Ștefan Higyed, Vasile Stoica, I.P.S Nicolae Corneanu (1999); Ștefan I. Drăgulescu, Ion Boldea (2000); Anita Osterloh (2001); Remus Porumb (2002); Heinrich Lay, Remus Tașcău (2003); Traian Vuia (postmortem), Silviu Orăvițanu (2004); Walter Mihai Klepper; Florin Paul; Dana Paul Giovaninetti; P. F. Daniel Ciobotea; P. S. S. Alexandru Mesian; Aristide Buhoiu (2005); György Kurtág (2006); prof. dr. Constantin Octavian Luca, Alina Goreac, Mircea Lăzărescu, Vladimir Fluture (2007); Nicolae Breban; Ioan Cărpineanu (2008), Simion Popescu (2010).

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CARUSO FROM BANAT

Traian Grozăvescu (or Grosăvescu, as written in his birth certificate) was born on 21 November 1895, in Lugoj, son of Costi Grosăvescu, born in Teregoava, chief accountant of the "County" office (Prefecture). He was an alumnus of the Lugoj High School, and since the autumn of 1914 attended the courses of the Law Faculty from Budapest, as well as the courses of the Music Academy. The young man from Lugoj completed his lyric formation at the Romanian Opera House from Cluj, between 1919 – 1923. He rehearsed with the great artist Franz Steiner, and left to Vienna in February 1923, as lead singer of Volksoper. His debut opera was "Pagliacci" by Leoncavallo, alongside Jean Athanasiu. His exceptional voice was compared by the music critics to that of Enrico Caruso, Leo Slezak or Alfred Piccaver. An emotional event took place in December 1926. The tenor was in Berlin - Charlottenburg, where he had a special performance in "Carmen", "Tosca" and "Rigoletto". All three performances were recorded by the Berlin radio station (just created at that same time), while the authorities from Lugoj broadcasted the radio show in the entire city, so everybody was able to listen the voice of their fellow-citizen.

But tragedy struck while the young tenor was in all his glory, and was famous worldwide: actuated by jealousy, Traian Grozăvescu's wife, Nelly Koveszdy, shot him dead in their family apartment in Vienna, on 62 Lacherfelderstrasse. Nelly, the killer wife, was not convicted due to the Austrian legislation which didn't punish the crime of passion triggered by jealousy. A "childhood memory" of the writer Viorel Marineasa is very interesting: **"... my dad made me part of a dramatic moment (...) He had just bought a lady pistol from someone in Lugoj. It was said to be the pistol used by the lover (actually, the wife, a.n.) of Traian Grozăvescu to kill him. Out of jealousy. My dad asked what he should do with that pistol. He suggested to get rid of it, because, should someone find out, he would get sent to prison. He wrapped the pistol in a bag and threw it in the Mureș river after nightfall."** In 1957, Lalelelor street from Lugoj became Traian Grozăvescu street. A memorial plate bearing his bronze effigy was attached to the house the great artist grew in; the following inscription can be read: "This is the house where tenor Traian Grozăvescu grew, an artist who's voice raised the country's fame, winning an honorable place amongst the world's singers".



*"Traian Grozăvescu"
Municipal Theater*

BÉLA FERENC DEZSŐ BLASKÓ,
"THE VAMPIRE" FROM LUGOJ

He was the fourth son of a baker from Lugoj, born in 1882. At the age of 12 he left home, and traveled to Reșița to work as a miner, and later on to Subotiča railways, in the Serbian Banat. He joined the Popular Theater choir, and then traveled to Timișoara, to become actor of the Franz Josef Theatre. In 1910 he was an actor in Seghedin, then in Budapest, where he played in his first movies under the alias of Arisztid. Lugosi performed brilliantly as Hamlet or Jesus on the Budapest theatrical scene. His public life was characterized by his strong left wing convictions. Béla from Lugoj became a true communist leader in the Hungarian capital: he was a member of the far left wing government of Béla Kuhn - later on overthrown by the Romanian troops, on France's advice, in 1919. That was the reason for Lugosi's leaving to Germany, and in 1921 he immigrated to New York. In 1929, film director Tod Browning invited him to the MGM film studios, to shoot "Dracula".



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That was the beginning of the most glorious period of actor Béla Lugosi, who played the role of fierce count of Transylvania for 25 years. That was the role which, **“dressed in a vampire suit, mysterious, seductive, terrifying”**, provided him a fulminant entry in Hollywood; he became an actual sex-symbol, **“having a bigger influence in the society of those times than Clark Gable”**, as film critic Lucian Maier said. The same critic acknowledged the similarly spectacular downfall of Béla Lugosi’s career: “The other part of Lugosi’s life, the fall from the stars, is just as viable for the spectators, because it induces compassion. Excessive repetition, by playing Dracula in all and every cinematic appearance, leads to a lack of subtlety and refinement. At the peak of his career, Lugosi slowly undermines his stardom due to its stubbornness not to accept other roles, probably less demanding in terms of composition, which provided a great success for Boris Karloff. He ends up playing Dracula in second hand, low budget features. Since the life of a sex-symbol is expensive, his earnings were quickly drained.” He died on 16 August 1956.



In 2007, Florin Iepan, film director from Timișoara, finished a documentary film on the life and career of Béla Lugosi: **“From Jesus to Lenin, but forever Dracula - Bela Lugosi/ The Fallen Vampire”**; he was supported by the film maker István Szabó.

UNIVERSITY FOUNDER

The founder of Butan Gas, Nagard Publishing House and of “Drăgan” European University was born on 20 June 1917, in Lugoj - in the family of a wealthy tanner. He graduated from Law School at the University of Bucharest. He joined the Romanian Army between 1939 - 1940, in the auxiliary service, where he was assigned the position of military prosecutor. He got released from the army on 16 January 1940. He moved to Italy on 24 January 1940 after earning a scholarship from the Italian government. Drăgan earned his second PhD in Jurisprudence and Political and Economical Sciences at the University of Rome, where he sustained his doctoral dissertation.



In 1941 he began his business, exporting Romanian petroleum to Italy. In 1948 he established the company Butan Gas S.p.A., specialized in the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas, and half of century later Drăgan was the first in the “Top 300” wealthiest Romanians according to the Romanian magazine “Capital” (2002-2003-2004 and 2006). In 1967, he started the “European Foundation Drăgan” in Italy. He was the founder of the Italian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce, founder of Nagard Publishing House in Italy, and Europa Nova Publishing House in Romania. He founded Drăgan European University (1991) in Romania, with branches in Lugoj, his home town, and in Brașov.

Drăgan wrote several papers, published in Romanian and other languages, such as “The World Mission of the International Marketing Federation”, “Geoclimate and History, Entropy and Bioeconomics”, “History of Romanian People”, “Antonescu-Marshal and Ruler of Romania”, “La vera storia dei Romeni”, “The Roman-Thracian Empire”, “Au service de l’Europe”, “Wandering in Europe”, “Dal Paese di Dracula”, “La mia Italia” etc. During his career he was awarded several titles: Cavaliere di Gran Croce al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (the highest Italian honor), The Golden Cross of George I Order (Greece), The Golden Medal of European Merit (Luxembourg), The European Award Lorenzo il Magnifico (AIM, Florence) etc. He was awarded the title Doctor Honoris Causa of University from Craiova and Timișoara and the title honorary citizen of Lugoj and Cluj-Napoca. Professor Iosif Constantin Drăgan died in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in his home, at the age of 91, and was buried on 25 August 2008 in his hometown, Lugoj.

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IOAN BĂLAN, THE MARTYR BISHOP

The town square bearing the name of Iosif Constantin Drăgan is located between the Iron Bridge and the City Hall, tangent to the Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna street. After the Revolution, the square became the celebration place of the “Day of Lugoj”, which takes place each year on 20 December, honoring that day of December 1989 on which Lugoj became the second free town in Romania, after Timișoara.

The main point of interest of the square is the Greek-Catholic Church “Pentecost”, part of the Lugoj diocese, a classic style building raised between 1843 - 1854. Lugoj was the seat of a Greek-Catholic Diocese established by papal Bull “Apostolicum Ministerium” issued in 1853, by splitting several eparchies belonging to the Făgăraș and Oradia Eparchy. Alongside the church from the I.C. Drăgan Square (the former business man was of Greek-Catholic religion), the Greek-Catholic Diocese of Lugoj included a confessional school, which later on turned into a theological school.



The Greek-Catholic Church



Bishop Ioan Bălan

Some of the most celebrated Greek-Catholic bishops of Lugoj were bishop dr. Alexandru Nicolescu and bishop Ioan Bălan. During the first world war, between 1914-1918, Bishop Nicolescu refused to sign the Declaration of Loyalty towards the Austro-Hungarian Empire, consequently he was declared a traitor by the authorities in Vienna and Budapest!

Following the Great Union of 1 December 1918, Alexandru Nicolescu was elected bishop of Lugoj in 1922. He was appointed senator for life of the Romanian Parliament. After thirteen years as bishop of Lugoj, in May 1935 he was elected metropolitan of the Romanian United Church, established in Blaj. As a member of the Crown Council of king Charles II he refused to sign the Second Vienna Award re-assigning the territory of Northern Transylvania from Romania to Hungary. In November 1936, in Blaj, Ioan Bălan was appointed bishop of Lugoj, while bishop dr. Alexandru Nicolescu was appointed Metropolitan Bishop.

Bishop Ioan Bălan refused to convert to orthodoxism and was arrested on 28 October 1948. He was deported to Dragoslavele orthodox monastery, and then to Căldărușani orthodox monastery (1949). Since May 1950 he had been an inmate of the Penitentiary from Sighetul Marmației (see right photo, found in his Secret Police file), later on placed under home arrest at Curtea de Argeș Monastery (1955). In 1956 he was transferred to the Orthodox Monastery for Nuns of Ciorogârla (near Bucharest), where he lived in complete isolation until the end of his life. He fell ill and died on 4 August 1959. He was buried in Bellu catholic cemetery from Bucharest. Briefly: the tragic story of a martyr of the Romanian Church United with Rome: bishop Ioan Bălan of Lugoj.



Bredicenii from Lugoj, boyar family from Gorj

By far, the “pillar” of the famous Brediceanu family from Lugoj was **Coriolan Brediceanu** (23 December 1849 - 25 January 1909), Romanian lawyer and politician. He was born in Lugoj, the son of a soap maker, Vasile Brediceanu. His father was the son of Ion Brediceanu from Boldur and grandson of George Brediceanu, a boyar originating from Oltenia who settled in Banat after the Treaty of Belgrade in 1739, which ended the Habsburg rule over

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Oltenia, and re-assigned it to the Ottomans. George Brediceanu, who originated from a boyar family loyal to the Austrians, was born in the village of Brădiceni - Gorj. In 1749 he sent a petition written in Latin to Maria Theresia, requesting “a small job”, so he could afford his daily meal, similar to the job he had in Wallachia (as “plăieș” or “scăunaș”). The empress granted his request. “We have George Brediceanu to thank for bringing the Romanian enthusiasm and passion into Banat, inherited by his offsprings who fought for the existence of our Romanian nation. His son, Ioan, from the village of Boldur, moved to Lugoj, where his descendant Vasile is raised, the father of Coriolan Brediceanu, the great fighter for the rights of Romanians from Banat and Transylvania. His sons are Caius, former Romanian diplomat, and Tiberiu, famous folklorist and composer...”, **dr. Gheorghe Gârdu** writes in his paper **“The first documents listing Brădiceni-Gorj”**.

Coriolan Brediceanu attended the high school from Beiuș, and the Law Faculty of the University from Budapest. He earned a PhD in law in 1874. Member of the Central Committee of the Romanian National Party (1881-1892), deputy of Oravița in the Hungarian Diet, Coriolan Brediceanu defended Romanian politicians and newspapers from Hungary and Transylvania during the trials initiated by the Austro-Hungarian authorities. That was the case in 1896, when he defended the villagers from Mehadia, or the miners from Ciclova Montană, Caraș, oppressed by the Hungarian authorities. In 1895, in Timișoara, Coriolan Brediceanu defends Valeriu Braniște, scholar, founder (1894) and editor of **“The Justice”** newspaper from Timișoara. Braniște frequently attacked the anti-Romanian policy of the Budapest government in his newspaper, so more than 70 suits were filed against him. Despite Coriolan Brediceanu’s defence, Valeriu Braniște was convicted to two years in prison, but Coriolan paid the 5,000 florins bail. Thanks to his nationalist attitude, in 1906 Brediceanu was elected representative of the Romanian people from Banat in the Hungarian Diet, in two electing districts. Brediceanu also supported another brilliant Romanian from Banat, Traian Vuia, who later became the inventor of the first Romanian aircraft.

Coriolan, the most important member of the Brediceanu family, had three descendants. **Tiberiu Brediceanu** studied music at a high school from Blaj, but he graduated the law



**“Coriolan Brediceanu”
High School**



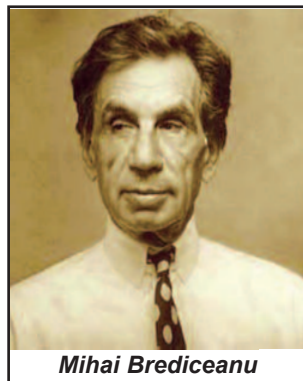
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Tiberiu Brediceanu

school from Cluj. He was the founding member of the National Theater, the Music University and the Romanian Opera from Cluj, whose director he became later on. He was a great admirer of the Romanian folklore and he recorded over 2,000 folk songs, mainly from Banat and Maramureș.

Tiberiu's son, **Mihai Brediceanu**, born on 14 June 1920 in Brașov, was a respected composer, conductor, musicologist. He studied piano at the Brașov Conservatory, and music theory, composition and conducting at the Music Academy from Bucharest. He also studied Law and Mathematics. He was general director of the National Opera from Bucharest (1959-1966). He was awarded the folklore award of the Romanian Composers Association (1925), The National Award for Music (1927), Master Emeritus of Art (1956), People's Artist (1957), The Order of Labour, I class (1956), The Order "The Cultural Merit", I class (1967). He died on 4 March 2005.



Mihai Brediceanu



Caius Brediceanu

Caius Brediceanu, the second son of Coriolan, was a politician and diplomat, appointed expert on ethnographic and geographic issues of the Romanian delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, after World War I. Just like his predecessors, he promoted the rights of the Romanians from Banat during his mandate as a deputy in the Budapest Parliament in 1906, 1907, 1908. He received his PhD in Law and Political Sciences in Vienna, in 1909, and practiced law in Budapest. He was a major figure of the Romanian National Party. After 1 December 1918 he was elected secretary general for External Affairs of the Transylvanian Provisional Government ("Consiliul Dirigent"), and was elected deputy in the Parliament of the new united Romania, in 1919.

For a short period of time Caius Brediceanu was appointed minister of state (17.12.1921-17.01.1922), the first person from Banat to reach such an important position in Bucharest). He then entered the diplomatic corps, and carried through several missions in Brazil, Argentina, Austria, Finland or Vatican.

The daughter of Coriolan, **Cornelia Brediceanu**, was the wife of the great poet and philosopher **Lucian Blaga**. Their daughter, **Dorli Blaga** (photo, bottom), described her mother Cornelia: "**She was a beautiful, confident woman. Elegant, yet sober. Fashionable, with short hair and short skirts, refined and stylish.**"

Cornelia Brediceanu followed a medical career. After the family moved to Lugoj, on 4 Făgetului street, in 1924 she opened her own dental cabinet. Consequently, Lucian Blaga used to name his wife "**Dr. C. Brediceanu, the dentist archangel**", while Dorli used to say: "**My mother makes a good living**", soothing her father's anger for not obtaining a job at the University from Cluj. Dorli Blaga would marry the sociologist, philologist and publicist **Tudor Bugnariu**, who was elected mayor of Cluj after 23 August 1944.



That is why the popular verses below honour the great Brediceanu family: "**Nobody compares to the people from Banat, no man from Banat compares to the people from Lugoj, no man from Lugoj compares to the Brediceanu family!**"

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THE SILVER
HORSE RIDER

Henri Rang was born on 8 June 1902, in Lugoj. He followed a military career, and graduated the School of Cavalry Officers from Târgoviște. He enrolled in several cavalry regiments, and then in the officer corps of the School of Cavalry Officers. After the second world war he was in office in the Regiment no.1 Roșiori from Lugoj.

He had a spectacular sports career. Between 1932 and 1938, the athlete from Banat and his horse "Delfis" won several medals at the equestrian competitions from Paris, Nice, Berlin, Warsaw and London. The most important event he attended as a Romanian contender, was the Summer Olympic Games from Berlin, in 1936, in the individual jumping and dressage competitions. The individual jumping competition gathered 54 competitors from 18 countries. Henri Rang and his horse "Delfis" won the silver medal in the final, coming in second after the representative of the hosting country, Kurt Hasse and his horse "Tora".

That was the first olympic silver medal won by Romania. The special event was acknowledged in "The Sports Gazette" by professor Camil Moțun special correspondent to the Olympic Games: "... **I must confess that at particular moments I experienced a completely new feeling. I looked around and it felt like everybody else was feeling the same emotion and warmth. It**



felt like everybody was looking at me differently, that I was no longer a simple face in the crowd.

In 1936, lieutenant Henri Rang and his horse "Delfis" attended several competitions together with the "golden" equestrian team of

the Romanian Army (alongside **Felix Țopescu** and **Toma Tudoran**,) and won multiple national and international events in the League of Nations Calendar. In 1937, Rang won **The Golden Challenge Cup** and the title of Military World Champion, when he succeeded a 2.14 m high jump at the London equestrian event occasioned by the coronation ceremony of king George VI. Another important trophy of the Cup, **Daily Mirror Trophy** (granted by the newspaper) was awarded to the Romanian horse rider **Felix Țopescu**, father of the famous sportscaster **Cristian Țopescu**. During the same year, 1937, lieutenant Henri Rang received "**The National Sports Award**", for: "**the multiple successful triumphs abroad, and for raising the Romanian flag on the olympic pole during the Berlin Olympics in 1936.**"

The champion's nephew, **Cătălin Petre Rang** (68 years old) has an interesting story about the participation of the Romanian equestrian team (formed of Henri Rang, Toma Tudoran and Constantin Apostol) to the Berlin Olympics, which he unveiled to the sports journalist Ionuț Curea. The story says that the horse of one of our team members, Toma Tudoran, slipped before an obstacle which it took down, then jumped without the obstacle being repaired. The jury, instead of downgrading Tudoran, disqualified the entire Romanian team, which would have won the Olympic gold medal, even after the downgrading. In order to make up for the jury's abuse, the chancellor of Nazi Germany, Hitler, gave Henri Rang a Zundapp motorcycle with sidecar, which was then worth almost as much as a motor car.

This motorcycle was the cause of his death: Rang was speeding on the streets of Iași and had a terrible accident, which confined him to bed for the rest of his life. He died at 44, on Christmas: 25 December 1946.

