

JIMBOLIA

Local Council Office: Jimbolia, 81 T.Vladimirescu str., telephone 0256/360764, fax 0256/360784

Web page address: www.jimbolia.ro

Coordinates:

45° 47' 30" N lat.;

20° 43' 20" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

1332-1337 - the town is first mentioned in documents in the papal tithes under the name "**Chumbul**";

- the town appears in medieval times under various names: **Chombol**, **Csomboly**, **Zsomboly**;

XVIIth century- the city is plundered by the Turks;

1723 - the map of count Claude Florimund Mercy shows Jimbolia as an uninhabited place;

1766 - the imperial counsellor **Johann Wilhelm von Hildebrand** initiates a strong colonization process with population from Western Germany;

- two separate towns are established: **Hatzfeld** and **Landestrau**, merged in 1768 under the name **Hatzfeld** (similar to the name of the prime-minister of empress Maria Theresa, **Hatzfeld-Gleichen** (1718-1793);

- the colonists came from the land areas administered by Austria: Trier, Mainz, Badische Pfalz, Lotharingia and Luxembourg;

- they travelled by rafts between Regensburg and Pancevo;

- despite being a poor peasant (bauer), a colonist was required to have 100 guildens in order to be accepted in Banat;

1778-1890 - the village of Hatzfeld is part of



the Torontal county, whose seat is in Becicherecu Mare (today Jarko Zrenjanin, in Serbian Banat;

1823 - the first craft guilds are created;

1857 - the first public railway for goods and passengers from modern Romania is launched (between Jimbolia-Timișoara), the oldest railway from Timiș county;

1864 - The tile and brick factory "Bohn" begins production;

1863 - "Csito" castle is built, following the design of **Ybl Miklós**, the famous architect of the Parliament and Opera House from Budapest;

1866 - the statue of **Saint Florian** is erected downtown, a Christian martyr deemed to be the patron saint of the city and the firemen, usually depicted as holding a bucket in the left hand for putting out the fire;

1866 - the Casino building including a library is opened; the library gathers almost 10,000 volumes by 1934;

1868 - the first bank is opened;

1870 - "The Steam Mill" begins to operate;

1872 - "The Agricultural Association" from Jimbolia is established, the first of its kind in Banat;

1875 - the first brigade of volunteer firemen is founded;

1878 - The Hat Factory "**Rudolf Decker & Co**" S.A. becomes operational;

CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF JIMBOLIA

KABA GÁBOR	Mayor	MÉSZÁROS ȘTEFAN, LC Member	DUHR
BOLDOR AUGUSTIN	Vice Mayor	MIHĂILĂ TIMOTEI, LC Member	DLP
BĂCĂ IOAN, LC Member	SDP	POATELNICU DARIUS, LC Member	DLP
ZOLTÁN, LC Member	DUHR	POP CONSTANTIN, LC Member	DLP
CIUCIULETE PETRU, LC Member	DLP	RÁKÓCZI SÁNDOR, LC Member	DUHR
CÍRLIG DANIELA, LC Member	SDP	TABEICĂ NECULAI, LC Member	IND
CSUTAK MATILDA, LC Member	DUHR	TAKÁCS MIHAI, LC Member	DUHR
FLAUGIU PAVEL, LC Member	ROMA PARTY	TOTH GABOR, LC Member	DUHR
MACOVEI BOGDAN, LC Member	DLP	VĂNĂTORU NICOLAE, LC Member	DLP

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1878 - The Administrative Palace is built;
1884 - **Burghardt Rezső**, painter at the Belle Arte Academy from Budapest, is born (d. 1968);

1887 - the first newspaper of Jimbolia, "**Hatzfelder Zeitung**", is published (until 1941);

- **Peter Jung** is born (d. 1966), author of the beautiful poem "**Du meine Heimat, mein**

Banat! Gedichte/ Oh, my home land, oh, my dear Banat!", one of the 12,000 poems written by Jung;

1891 - the first public bath is opened;

1895 - the Town Slaughter House is established (as a joint stock company);

1909 - the thermal power station of the town becomes operational;

1910 - painter **Ștefan Jäger** settles in Jimbolia where he spends the rest of his life (on 16 March 1962 he is buried in Jimbolia, next to his mother, Magdalena);

- the city that **Jäger** loved so much honors the painter in a museum dedicated to the works of the Swabian artist;

1919-1924 - Jimbolia falls under the administration of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats

and Slovenes (as part of the Belgrade county) under the name of **Dzombolj**, as the Bulgarians from Banat call the town);

1921 - The Factory of Combs and Buttons S.C. "Venus" S.A. begins its activity;
10.04.1924 - following a territorial exchange with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Jimbolia returns to the Romanian state;

1925 - Jimbolia is the seat of the subdistrict (plasă) which governs Cărpiniș, Iecea Mare, Iecea Mică, Cenei, Bobda, Checea, Bereg-său Mic;

1948 - the orthodox priest of the eparchy of Jimbolia is **Mihail (Marcel-Marcu) Avramescu**, writer, important collaborator of Mircea Eliade;

1948 - the nationalization of the following undertak-

ings takes place: "Bohn" (named "Ceramics-tile"), "Venus" ("Szabó Árpád" - buttons), "Union" ("Schmidt Matei" - hats, later on merged with "Decker" - shoes), "Schmidt" and "Merky" "Horia" - shoes), "The Hemp Retting Plant Trăilescu" ("The Retting from Jimbolia"), "The Mill Prohászka" ("The Mill from Jimbolia") etc.;

27.09.1951 - the Yugoslavian border patrol ("titoist") fire upon the 94 border landmark from Jimbolia, killing the Romanian border guard **Ioan Călin**;

25 December 1955 - **Valentin Dinescu** is born; attorney, politician, former county council member, senator of Timiș, 2000-2004, 2004-2008 (d. 12.01.2008);

19.09.1965 - the Germans from Jimbolia resume the celebration of Kirchwei, and almost one thousand young Swabians attend the event.;

1 November 1966 - prose writer **Lidia Handabura** (Lidia Anelore Mușat) is born;

16.02.1968 - the new administrative division of the Romanian territory takes place;

- Jimbolia is the third largest settlement (in population) in Timiș county, after Timișoara and Lugoj;

1981 - the city has a population of **15,259**;

1993 - S.C. "Canabis" S.A. is closed (The Processing plant of hemp stains), and 300 employees are laid off;

1993 - The Civil Firemen Association "Florian" Jimbolia, supported by the City Hall of Jimbolia and the Banat Museum from Timișoara, set up the "Florian" Firemen



Cover of "**1929 Almanac of Banat**",
published by **Virgil Molin**

and Slovenes (as part of the Belgrade county) under the name of **Dzombolj**, as the Bulgarians from Banat call the town);

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Museum;

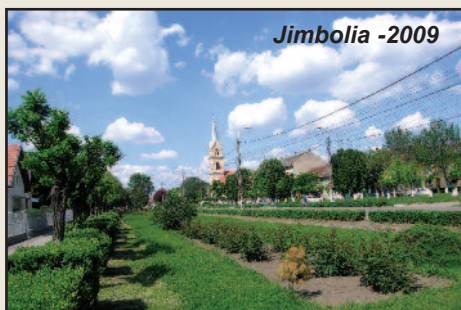
1994 - S.C. "Soceram" S.A. is closed and over 1,000 employess are dismissed;

1995 - the weekly newspaper "Jimbolia Observer" ("Observator de Jimbolia") is published, having 4 pages, issued by S.C. "Kabor" S.R.L., the company of the future mayor of the town, **Gábor Kaba**;

4.04.1996 - the official opening of the "Ștefan Jäger" Museum (new building), erected on the plot of the former Memorial House, a project sponsored by the Ministry of Culture from Bavaria;

- the museum workshop includes objects owned by the painter Jäger and several oil, water colour painting and sketches;

1995 - poet **Petre Stoica**, born in Peciu Nou, leaves the Romanian capital at the



age of 64, and establishes "**The Romanian-German Cultural Foundation**" in Jimbolia;

11.08.2000 - opening of the Memorial House "**Dr. Karl Diel**";

2002 - Jimbolia has a population of **11,605**;

5.11. 2007 - the **Railway Museum** from Jimbolia is opened;

Total population on 01.01.2010:

11,812 persons, of which:

- male = 5,725 persons

- female = 6,087 persons

Number of households on 01.01. 2010:

4,156

Educational institutions: "Mihai Eminescu" Vocational School from Jimbolia; Primary and Elementary School = Jimbolia; Kindergartens = three; Kindergarten with extended hours: Jimbolia;

Health facilities: "Dr. K. Diel" Hospital Jimbolia; Medical Clinic Jimbolia; Clinics = four; Human Pharmacies = three; Sanitary Veterinary Authority Jimbolia; Sanitary Veterinary And Food Safety Authority Jimbolia; Veterinary Pharmacies = four;

Cultural Institutions:

- Cultural Centre Jimbolia; "Ștefan Jäger" Museum; "Florian" Firemen Museum; "Sever Bocu" Museum of the Press; The Railway Museum in "Dr. Karl Diel" Memorial House; "Petre Stoica" Romanian-German Cultural Foundation; "Apunake" Literary Coffee house; "Mihai Eminescu" town library (founded in 1948);

Fitness and sports facilities:

- "Thierjung Árpád" football stadium Jimbolia; School Gymnasium Jimbolia; Thermal bath Jimbolia; the gymnasium inside the Thermal Bath; the ponds near the city;

Churches:

- The Romanian Orthodox Church from (1942); Roman-Catholic churches = two; Greek-Catholic churches = two; The Church Assembly of God "Exodus"; The Reformed Prayer House (1993); The Baptist Orthodox Church; "Salem" Pentecostal Church;

Annual church festivals and other religious and cultural events:

The Annual Church festival from Jimbolia - 15 August; The Jimbolia rally - in June; The Euroregional Blues Festival "Jimoblues" - in July; "Jimbolia City Days" - the city celebration in August;

CITIZENS OF HONOUR

Petre Drăgan, **Dirk Gaerte**, **Heidinger Helmuth** (1996), **Döring Helmuth** (1999); **Petre Stoica** (2000), **Adalbert Coestner** (2001), **Hans Wiesenmayer** (2005), **Elisabeta Anton**, **Josef Koch**, **Hans Werner Krutsch** (2008), **Ciobanu Dragomir** and **Pia Branzeu** (2009).

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CITY PATRON

In 1866, the residents of Jimbolia raised the statue of Saint Florian in the center of the city, which was to become the city symbol. The saint was deemed to be the protector of Jimbolia and also of the local firemen, after the volunteer firemen brigade had been established in 1875. Saint Florian was a Christian martyr, executed by the

Romans in Lauria (Lorch, Austria) on 4 May 304. Florian was punished by the Romans for his lack of veneration towards the gods and was exiled in the north-east of present-day Austria, at Sankt Pölten. He did not worship the Roman gods, but he helped a group of Christians to preserve their faith. Consequently, he was tortured to death. In

1993 the Civil Firemen Association from Jimbolia, supported by the local City Hall and the Banat Museum from Timișoara, founded the **Florian” Firemen Museum**, to honor the firemen’s entire activity, ever since 1875. The Collection of the “Florian” Museum includes objects and equipments specific to the volunteer firemen brigades from Banat, dated 1880 - 1970, paintings or photographs, documents, diplomas or trophies awarded in various contests. Other statues of Saint Florian were erected in various cities from Banat and Ardeal, such as the statue from Carei (Satu Mare county, 18 century), from Sânpetru German or the statue from Aradul Nou (Arad) residential district; the last one was created in 1869 thanks to the donation of the Dambacher family and of Anton Sachs. Martyr Florian from Aradul Nou is depicted in a Roman officer uniform, a helmet on the head, a bucket of water in his right hand for extinguishing the fire and a flag in his left hand.

A GREAT SURGEON

Dr. Karl Diel (1855 - 1930) practised medicine in Jimbolia as a surgeon, head of the surgery department ever since the Town



Hospital of Jimbolia had been established (1896). In the autumn of 1919, when the Military Hospital from Timișoara was being evacuated, the surgical cases were forwarded to the town hospital from Jimbolia, managed by dr. Kiel. Between 1920 – 1928 he was appointed manager of the hospital, but he also used to coordinate the activity of a private sanatori-

um. Dr. Kiel had a remarkable case history in his medical career: over 50,000 interventions and surgeries. In 1940, the College of Physicians from Banat, supported by the people of Jimbolia, showed their appreciation by erecting a bust in the memory of the great surgeon dr. Karl Diel. On 11 August 2000, on the tenth edition of “Jimbolia City Days”, the memorial house “Dr. Karl Diel” was opened to the public, thanks to the efforts of the surgeon’s granddaughter, prof. dr. Pia Brânzeu, and the support of the City Hall from Jimbolia.



DR. PETRU DRĂGAN

He was born on 2 February 1932 in Jimbolia. Alumnus of the “C.D. Loga” College from Timișoara (1951). Alumnus of the Faculty of Medicine from Timișoara (1957). Medical doctor, expert in urology (1971). Doctor of Medicine of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Timișoara (1971). He was the leader of the team which performed the first cadaver kidney transplant in Romania (1981). He was the promoter of low endourology in Timișoara and nationwide. Head of the Urology Department of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Timișoara, Head of the Urology Clinic from Timișoara (1987). Professor of Urology (1990). Member of the Romanian Academy of Medical

Sciences (1996). National Order “For Merits” (2000), “Citizen of Honour” of his hometown, Jimbolia (1966) and “Citizen of Honour” of Timisoara (2002). He passed away in the autumn of 2007.

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THE RAILWAY MUSEUM

On 15 November 2007, on the 150th anniversary of the launch of the railway route Szeged - Kikinda - Jimbolia - Timișoara, in the presence of then minister of transport, Ludovic Orban, and of the city mayor, Kaba Gábor, the Railway Museum was opened, near the Jimbolia railway station. The railway station, built in 1857, had three platforms, of around 100 meters. The design engineer of the city's first railway station was the general director of St.E.G. - Staats Eisenbahn Gesellschaft - a Frenchman, Jules Maniel. A trilingual book (Romanian, Hungarian, Serbian) dedicated to that event, was



launched on the inauguration of the museum, and the Philatelic Association from Timișoara issued two special envelopes with printed images of the North Station from Ti-



mișoara and the station from Jimbolia. The Museum project was initiated by the City Hall of Jimbolia, together with **The Association "Voice of the Train Wheels"** ("Glasul roților de tren"). The visitor discovers collections of locomotive postcards, different travel cards, a numismatic collection, medals, badges, decorations specific to the railway activity. The museum courtyard exhibits railway equipments, tools, signaling devices used for the infrastructure maintenance, and also, one of the museum's attractions: a tricycle used for the inspection of the railways more than one hundred years ago. The restored water tower for supplying the steam locomotive is flanked by mechanical signaling devices. The museum also displays an installation for the decontamination of the rolling stock. Graphic artist Mihaela Șchiopu (close friend of the late poet Petre Stoica) is represented in the Railway Museum from Jimbolia by a rail-theme graphic collection.

UNIQUE IN ROMANIA

The Museum of Romanian Press from Jimbolia was declared open on 14 September 2007, the first institution of this kind in Romania, one of the few even in Europe (in Aachen, Germany, and in Portugal).

The museum received the name of **Sever Bocu**, first class citizen of Banat, born in Șiștarovăț, who published the newspaper "România Mare" in Kiev, in 1917, for the Romanian war prisoners in concentration camps. Journalist for "Tribune" ("Tribuna") from Arad, "The West" and "The Will of Banat" from Timișoara, deputy in 1921, governor of Timiș region between 1938 - 1940, elected deputy of Timiș-Torontal in 1946, arrested in 1950, Sever Bocu was confined in the prison from Sighetul Marmației, where he also died in January 1951. The object of the Museum of Romanian Press "Sever Bocu" has been to collect press - regardless of the language - from entire Romania. The starting point was the newspaper collection of Petre Stoica Foundation (which owns over 15,000 volumes in Romanian and German,

some of great bibliographic value, numismatic, philatelic and postcards collections, ex-libris, valuable manuscripts belonging to Romanian and German writers, paintings, engravings, household items). Sever Bocu Museum has on display several almanacs and calendars (XIXth-XXth century), documents describing the internal life of a publication (identification badges, envelopes etc.), old photographs, a relatively large specialist library on printed media. The museum collections include rare sample newspapers, photographs depicting the daily life of the typographers, press illustrations, a printing device and other printing related items. The post-revolutionary Romanian press is also represented, especially the first issue of each publication, which has been donated to this unique museum from Jimbolia.



Currently, the curator of the museum is publicist **Vali Corduneanu**.

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FATHER AVRAMESCU,
THE MYSTIC

One of the most “fascinating, excentric and enigmatic” figures of the XXth c. Romanian philosophy, theology and literature, **Mihai Avramescu** (1909-1984) lived in Jimbolia for a long period of time. Marcu-Mihai Avramescu (alias Jonathan X Uranus, alias Ierusalim X. Unicornus, alias father Mihail) was an ethnic Jew, exponent of esotericism, follower of Rene Guenon. He was the one who guided his friend, Mircea Eliade in that direction, and together they edited the esoteric magazine “**Memra**” (“word” in Hebrew) at the beginning of the 1930s. He made his debut in Tudor Arghezi’s “**Parrot’s tickets**” (“Bilete de papagal”) under the name of Marc Abrams (1928) with the short story “The Orangutan from the radiator”. His works had also an urmuz-kabbalistic flavour (under the alias Jonathan X. Uranus he gets close to the avant-garde circles). The interwar generation regarded him as a magician, astrologer, graphologist, physiognomist, fortune teller, occultist etc., leading an extravagant, bohemian life. He converted to orthodoxism in 1936 and in 1939 attended the Theology Faculty from Bucharest. He discontinued his studies due to the racist politics enforced by the regime of Marshal Ion Antonescu. Not till

1949 did he submit his graduation thesis: **Kabbalah. The traditional Gnosis of Old Law** (“Qabbalah. Gnosa tradițională a Legii Vechi”). He was ordained priest in Biserica Albă in 1951. Father Mihail preached in Stavropoleos, Schitul Maicilor and Uricani. Following his divorce, he was appointed parson in Tulcea, then in Banat, in Jimbolia (1962). During the 1970s, the exuberant personality of father Mihail had a significant impact upon Mandics György - mathematician, literary anthropologist, important Barbilian interpreter, ufologist, and also upon the literary critic Cornel Ungureanu, or upon the poets Șerban Foarță and Marcel Tolcea. **Claudio Mutti** - philosopher and essayist - converted to islam under the name **Omar Amin**, wrote in his book, “La Grande Influence de Rene Guenon en Roumanie” (Akribeia, Saint-Genis-Laval, 2002): **“Besides Cornel Ungureanu, Șerban Foarță, Mandics György was also visited by a young 18 year old, Marcel Tolcea (...). In the ‘90s, Professor Tolcea lectured about the traditional sciences, at the West University, but also brought a translation to Symbols of the Sacred Science (dedicated to the memory of Father Mihail); he submitted a doctoral thesis on Mircea Eliade and Rene Guenon”.**

DOKTOR HANS, THE CHAMPION OF JIMBOLIA

“**Physician Hans Wiesenmayer**”, as described during the awarding ceremony of the title of honorary citizen of Jimbolia in 2005, “was born on 17 December 1924 in Jimbolia. He graduated the Faculty of Medicine in 1954 and practised medicine as a physician of Dinamo Sports Club and the Romanian Federation of Athletics. He specialized in sports medicine and medical gymnastics. Hans Wiesenmayer is acknowledged as the most famous sportsman born in Jimbolia: in 1924 he won the national decathlon championship, in 1943 he won the golden medal at the National Athletics Championship in longjumping. In 1949 he joined the “Dinamo” Sports Club from Bucharest and between 1949-1958 he won around 40 national titles in 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres sprint races, triple jump, decathlon, 4 x 100 metres, 4 x 400 metres.

He broke the national records in longjumping and 400 metres sprint. He was victorious in the International Championships of Romania, in bilateral contests with Bulgaria, Belgium, Switzerland, USSR (longjumping), France, Norway, GDR (100 m, 200 m, 400 m sprint and 4 x 400 m relay, in 1957, the last international contest he attended). In 1958 he was suspended from sports life, banned from the “Dinamo” Sports Club, due to his “unhealthy origin” and he worked as a sports physician at Grivița Hospital - Bucharest. In 1961 the ban was lifted and he adjourned his last national championship title in 400 metres sprint as a member of “Progresul” Sports Club from Bucharest. In 1969 he joined a sport delegation visiting GFR but he never returned to Romania. In his honour, the swimming pool from Jimbolia was given his name, “**Hans Wiesenmayer**”.