

SÂNNICOLAU MARE

Local Council Office:

Sânnicolau Mare, str. Republicii no. 15, telephone 0256/370366; fax 0256/370350;

Webpage address:

<http://www.sannicolau-mare.ro>

Coordinates:

46°4' 20" N lat.;
20°37' 46" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

1217-1256 - the name of **Sân-Nicolau** as a settlement in the area known today as the town of Sânnicolau Mare was recorded in several documents;

1247 - the town was recorded in documents under the name of **Zent Miklous**;

1332 - Sânnicolau Mare was mentioned in the register of papal tithes under the name of **Santus Michael**;

the XIIth century - a Turkish garrison (with a janissaries' school) was set up in town, but it was closed in 1701 following the Peace Treaty from Karlowitz, signed on 26 January 1699, at the end of the Habsburg - Ottoman war (1683-1697);

1724 - the locality became the fiscal administration office, and then the residence of the "plasa";

24 February 1749 - Révai Miklós was born, piarist priest, philologist and university professor (d. 1 April 1807);

1750 - several Slovak families settled in Sânnicolau Mare;

1752 - around 40 German families of craftsmen settled in the area (smiths, weavers, shoe makers, millers, but also gardeners);

- the Swabians settled in the German Sânnicolau, later incorporated in the town;

1765 - the future Emperor **Joseph II** visited the town and wrote to his mother, Maria Theresa, how impressed he was about the way in which the town of Sânnicolau developed, foreseeing a bright future for the locality;



1787 - the settlement received the privilege of organising occasional fairs;

1799 - the building of the Elementary School of Agriculture was initiated by Count **Cristofor Nako**;

- the famous **Treasure** was discovered (named "**Attila's Treasure**");

1830 - the teacher **Simion Andron** founded a peasant's choir, which was suspended in 1848 because of the peasants' participation in the revolution;

1834 - Heim Peter was born; he was the engineer who built the postal and telegraphy network of Hungary (d. 1904);

1837 - Sânnicolau Mare received the right to organise a weekly market;

23 October 1853 - Emilia Lungu Puhallo was born (d. 16 December 1932);

1874 - Atanasie Lipovan was born; composer, choir conductor and folklorist (d. 1947);

25 March 1881 - the composer **Béla Bartók** was born (d. 26 September 1945);

1883 - the first hospital was founded by the charity of Count Nako;

1884 - the state elementary school was founded;

- **Herman Lipot** was born; painter and professor (d. 1972);

5 September 1904 - Gheorghe Cotoșman was born; priest and professor at the Theological College from Caransebeș (d. 12 January 1977);

1911 - a Roman inscription was found on Victor Babeș street, which can be seen today at the Banat Museum. The inscription text

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF SÂNNICOLAU MARE

GROZA DĂNUȚ

FARCA MANUEL

ASAFTEI RADU, LC member

AVRAN STĂNUȘOIU, unvalidated

CĂRPINIȘAN VASILE, LC member

COSTĂCHEL FLORENTIN, LC member

GRUI ADRIAN CĂLIN, LC member

ILIN DAN IONEL, LC member

LUCA MARIAN LEONTIN, LC member

Mayor

Vice Mayor

DLP

SDP

DLP

DLP

NLP

DLP

MÂNDRAN NATALIA, LC member

MUNTEAN DORIN HOREA, LC member

ONCU IOSIF, LC member

PINTEA CONSTANTIN, LC member

RADA VASILE, LC member

ROȘCA TRAIAN, LC member

SĂRBU IOAN IVAN, LC member

TEREBENȚ SEBASTIAN, LC member

VASILCIN GHEORGHE, consilier

SDP

DLP

SDP

NLP

NLP

DLP

DLP

DLP

PD-L

SÂNNICOLAU MARE

proves the existence of a tomb built by the blower of the 3rd Legion Gemina **Aurelius Firminus** in the memory of **Marcus Aurelius Timo**;

after 29 July 1919 - Sânnicolau Mare became part of the Romanian administration; - 6,000 of citizens of Sânniclaș took part in the welcoming of a company from the Infantry Division of Brașov;

1928 - the locality was a commune and would become a residence of the "plasa" (territorial-administrative unit below the county and above the commune);

25 January 1931 - **Ion Hobana** is born, poet, SF proseman, essayist, theoretician of the anticipation literature (d. 22.02.2011);

12 May 1935 - the Stadium of the "Șoimii României" Sports Society was inaugurated in the presence of over 25,000 young people;

13 May 1936 - **Francisc Barany** was born; deputy and Minister of Health;

13 April 1940 - the poet **Marcel Turcu** was born;

26 June 1942 - Sânnicolau Mare became a town, through the union of the communes Sânnicolau Mare and the German Sânnicolau Mare;

30 June 1944 - **Hans (Johann) Dama** was born; writer, professor at the University of Vienna; **01 May 1945** - 10,000 people from Sânnicolau Mare and the surrounding localities celebrated the International Labour Day;

29 January 1947 - **Octavian Dogaru** was born; physicist, numismatist and deputy;

11 June 1948 - the Leather Factory, the Commercial Mill, the Bachman Mill, the Brick Factory and the Hemp Factory were nationalised;

29 September 1949 - **Gheorghe Funar** was born; economist, professor, he is a former senator (2004-2008), the former mayor of the city of Cluj Napoca (1992-2004);

1951 - 191 of Romanian and Serbian families from Sânniclaș are deported to Bărăgan;

7 October 1951 - **Kremm Werner** was born; writer, critic and translator, journalist;

1951 - the locality became the residence of the raion from the Banat region;

9 August 1952 - **Ioan Romoșan** was born;

Ph.D. professor, a primary doctor;

1953 - sociologist **Anton Sterbling** was born; he was a professor at the Police Academy of Saxony (Germany);

23 November 1954 - artist **Georgeta Medinski** was born;

11 March 1955 - the writer and journalist **Dușan Baiski** was born;

9 March 1958 - the piano player **Dragoș Mihăilescu** was born;

1968 - the commune received the status of town of Timiș county;

19 July 1979 - the poet and journalist **Goran Mrakitsch** was born;

after 1990 - Sânnicolau Mare has been known as the "only town in Romania without unemployed people";

2009 - the first "Retired People's Ball" was organised;

Total population on 1 January 2010:

13,214 persons, of which:

- male = 6,333 persons

- female = 6,881 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 4,775

Educational institutions: High School "Ioan Jebelean"; Vocational High School; Elementary Schools (I-VIII) (two); Kindergartens with normal hours (two); Kindergartens with extended hours (two); Kindergarten with weekly hours;

Health facilities: Hospital; Polyclinic; Local clinic; Medical practices (ten); Drugstores (ten);

Cultural institutions: Cultural centre; "Pro Bartók" Cultural Association; Museum; Library (founded in 1951);

Fitness and sports facilities: Gymnasium; Swimming Pool;

Churches: Greek-Catholic Churches; Serbian Orthodox Churches (1787); Roman-Catholic Churches (1824); Pentecostal Churches: two; Baptist Churches (1908);

Annual church festivals:

The days of the town of Sânnicolau Mare (8-9 September – annual church festival);

Kirchweih (October).

CITIZENS OF HONOUR

Ioan Romoșan, **Michael Maringer**, **Gianfranco Zoppas**, **Giovanni Polesello** (2000); **Béla Bartók** (post-mortem, 2006); **Ioan Gherga** (2008).

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RÉVAI THE SCHOLAR



Révai Miklós was born in a family with modest incomes from Sânnicolau Mare on 24 February 1749/50. Ambitious and willing to learn, **Révai** began his studies in Cenad. He then attended the courses of the piarist high school from Szeged, but he also studied in other localities, for 6 years. He loved linguistics and he studied this science in Vienna and Graz. In 1769, he became a monk at Kecskemét, being ordained in Oradea on 9 June 1771. He taught mathematics, Latin, arts. Piarist priest, philologist and university teacher, Révai was considered an important personality of the Hungarian Enlightenment, his merits being acknowledged by the Hungarian Academy, which received him among its members. Moreover, he

was the one who resumed the attempts to found an academy starting with 1770 (in 1784, Révai submitted to Emperor Joseph II a project on the founding of a science association, which later on would become the Hungarian Academy). A great linguist, Révai Miklós is considered to be the founder of the comparative method, before the German linguist **Jacob Grimm**. He fluently spoke German, Latin, Ancient Greek, Hebrew, Italian and French, besides Hungarian. He was the headmaster of the Arts School from Győr (an elementary school from Győr bears the name of the scholar from Sânnicläuș), and on 16 August 1802 he was appointed Hungarian language professor at the University of Pesta, where he taught for five years and a half to around 74 students. He departed this life in Budapest on 1 April 1807.

The Roman-Catholic Bishopry from Timișoara has a handwritten document of Révai from 1786 that contains an elegy written in Latin which comprises the following advice: “**Sacred be thy home land. Strive to honour it, to serve it.**” A statue was built in his honour in Sânnicolau Mare in 1893. It was moved from its initial place in front of the former boys’ school (1897), where it remained until 1925, when the bronze bas-relief dedicated to Révai (creation of Holló Barnabás, funded by Csaplár Benedek, biographer of Révai) was removed. Instead, the pedestal now holds the bust dedicated to Mihai Eminescu.

A commemorative plaque was placed inside the Roman-Catholic Church from Sânnicolau Mare in the honour of the great scholar from Banat on the 200-year anniversary of his death in 2007. The sculptor Izsó Miklós created a statue in the honour of Révai Miklósfor, located on the building of the Hungarian Academy from Budapest (see image, above).



FROM THE TREASURE, TO ATILA'S THRONE



On 3 July 1799, a peasant from Sânnicolau Mare, **Sava Vuin**, who was digging in his yard in order to plant some vines, discovered a fabulous treasure consisting of 23 20k and 22k gold objects: jugs, plates, chalices, goblets decorated with animal heads or depicting various fighting scenes. The treasure from Sânnicolau Mare, considered among the most important from the early Middle Ages, was taken to the History and Arts Museum from Vienna. But to whom did the treasure belong? Some say that the treasure belonged to Duke Ahtum, an heir of Voivode Glad, who had been baptised in the orthodox religion at Vidin. Ally of the Byzantine Empire, of the Bulgarian army and supported by the Walachs, Ahtum was the duke (ruler) of an area which nowadays corresponds to the historical Banat region. The Romanian duke allegedly hid the treasure before being killed in

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a battle against King Stephen I of Hungary in 1002. However, some historians believe that the 24 high quality gold pieces were crafted in the Byzantine Empire workshops from Constantinople, around the VIIIth century. Others say that the treasure belonged to the Bulgarians from the times when Banat was under Bulgarian tsardom ruling, assumption which is also supported by Ion Lotreanu in “The Monograph of Banat” from 1936. Lotreanu believes that the treasure belonged to a Bulgarian voivode by the name of Kabar.

People also took into account the hypothesis that the treasure from Sânnicolau Mare belonged to the Goths, some German populations or the Huns. There is a legend that traces the origin of the treasure found by Sava Vuin to the years 380-453 AD. During that period, Sânnicolau Mare was under the ruling of Morisena (Cenad) fortress, which was thought to be the capital of the Huns in Europe, Attila’s residence, the leader named “the Whip of God” for its cruelty towards the conquered people. The legend says that Attila’s throne of gold was buried at the entrance in Sânnicolau Mare from Cenad, in the changed river bed of the Aranca stream. This story reminds us of the one about the treasure of King Decebal, buried in the changed river bed of the Strei river. Sânnicolau and Cenad compete with the island of Torcello near Venice regarding these fantastic stories of the past. A legend of the place says that in Torcello, near Saint Maria Asunta Cathedral, founded in 639, there was a “caregon” (which, in Venetian dialect, means the “throne of stone”), which, according to the same legend, was Attila’s throne (it is probably only the stone chair of a local bishop).

The intellectual people of Sânnicolau Mare made efforts to bring the treasure home during the period 1920-1940, but with no positive result. In the summer of 2010, the local officials managed to obtain a copy made after the certified copy of the treasure displayed at the National Museum of History from Sofia, Bulgaria.



LADY PUHALLO

Emilia Lungu was born in Sânnicolau Mare, on 23 October 1853, as the daughter of the journalist Traian Lungu from Lugoj. She studied at the elementary school from

her home town, and she attended the courses of the high school in Timisoara. She contributed to the “Family” and “The Church and the School” magazines. In 1872, Emilia Lungu founded the first women’s club from Banat in Timișoara: “The Ladies’ Club”. She was only 18 years old.

Supported by doctor Pavel Vasici-Ungureanu and by bishop Meșianu from Arad, Emilia Lungu managed to set up the girls’ school from Izvin in 1874. She was appointed teacher at the new school, thus becoming the first Romanian female teacher from Banat. She taught at Izvin for two years. At the same time, she attended the courses of the Pedagogical School from Arad, receiving the title of teacher in 1878. However, she returned to Timișoara at her mother’s request. She contributed to some newspapers

and magazines (using pen names like: “The Old Man from Banat”, “The Traveller from Banat”, “The Young Man from Banat”).

She married (1887) the Hussar lieutenant Isac Puhallo, coming from a Croatian noble family. Emilia and Isac settled for a short time in Sarajevo, then in Mostar, where her husband died in 1891. After the death of her only son, Emilia Lungu Puhallo returned to Timișoara, in Banat. She began to contribute to magazines, writing several articles, serial stories, short stories, like “**Sunday**” (social study), “**The Daughter of the Teacher**” (historical short story), “**The Volunteer**”, “**The Reservist**”, “**The Tramp**”, “**The Apricots**”, “**A Parable**”, “**Niculae, the Cantor**”, “**The Journey through Bosnia-Hertze-govina**”, “**The History of the Romanian Schools from Timișoara**”, “**The History of the First Romanian Girls’ School from Banat**” etc., proving that the encouragement to write literature of her uncle, the poet **Iulian Grozescu** from Comloș, in her teenage years, was a justified one.

She departed this life in Timișoara on 16 December 1932. She was awarded the order of “**the Star of Romania**” by Queen Elisabeth. She was buried in the cemetery located on Buziașului Boulevard in Timișoara.

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BARTÓK - COMPOSER, PIANIST, FOLKLORIST

Béla Viktor János Bartók was born in Sânnicolau Mare on 25 March 1881. As a piano teacher, his mother saw that her son had special musical skills. Béla began to study the piano at the age of five, and, at the age of eleven, he was already giving concerts in public. He studied in Sânnicolau Mare, Oradea, Bistrița, Bratislava and Budapest. He was admitted to the Music Academy from Budapest at the age of 18 (1899). He was influenced by Richard Strauss and the German music tradition, reflected in the symphonic poem in ten parts **“Kossuth”**. In 1904, he composed Op. 1, a “Rhapsody” for piano and orchestra, which would win the second prize in the Rubinstein competition in Paris. He discovered that Hungarian folklore was a mixture of several types of folk songs: in the old style, with a pentatonic melody, in the new style, with mixed modes and heptatonic scales, but also a mixed category combining the two elements.



In 1906, he released the **“Twenty Hungarian Folk Songs”** (**“Douăzeci de cântece populare maghiare”**) collection. He was appointed piano teacher at the Music Academy of Budapest. He composed: “Portraits” -1908, “Bagatelles” -1907, the first “Strings Quartet” - 1908, compositions for piano, the “Bluebeard’s Castle”, opera -1911, “the Wooden Prince”, pantomime ballet -1917, “the Miraculous Mandarin”, ballet -1919, “Cantata profana” (1930), the first of the two Piano Concertos (1926 and 1931), four Quartets for strings (1927, 1928, 1934, 1939), “the Sonata for two pianos and percussion” (1937), “Music for strings, percussion and celesta” (1936) - appreciated by the musical critics as its best work, then the “Concert for violin no. 2” (1936) and “the Divertimento for String Orchestra” (1939). He settled in the United States of America in 1939, working at the Columbia University until the end of his life in New York, on 26 September 1945. Béla Bartók’s prestigious activity was rewarded over the years. In 1924 he was awarded the first class order “Bene merenti” by Ferdinand I, King of Romania; he was awarded the “Enescu” prize and he also became the member of the Romanian Composers’ Society. France awarded him the “Legion of Honour” (1931) and in Paris there is a statute in his honour in a square named after him. The World Peace Council awarded him the title of member of honour (1955), post-mortem. He has elected post-mortem as member of the Romanian Academy in 1991. A bust was sculpted in his honour in 1993 and a street in Sânnicolau bears his name. From March 2006, he is the Citizen of Honour (post-mortem) of the town of Sânnicolau Mare.

THE CASTLE OF LOST WONDERS

The most famous noble family from the north-west of the Timiș-Torontal county in the XVIIIth-XIXth centuries was the one of the Counts Nacu, Aromanians coming from Greece and settled in Banat. The Nacu brothers, Hristu and Chiril, converted to the catholic religion and they Magyarised their names, turning them into Nakó Kristóf and Cziril. They bought the land from Sânnicolau at an auction in 1781. In 1864, the Count Kálmán Nakó (see image, right) began the building of the castle, in neoclassical style, located in the middle of a park with rare essence trees. The most important piece of the manor is the medieval tower which is the centre of

the building with 99 rooms. According to the monograph of Sânnicolau Mare written by Ph.D. Prof. Ioan Romoșan, the rooms became true museum halls, housing valuable pieces: 5,000 volumes of the family library, a Cinquecento altar, paintings of the masters Lenbach and Schrottberg, a Venetian statue sculpted by Carducci, paintings by Pettenkofen, Frygies and Blaas, but also by the Count Kálmán Nakó’s wife, Berta; a copy of the famous Treasure from Sânnicolau Mare, sculpted and engraved Flemish cupboards, rare porcelains, a jewellery box which contained original letters received from the composers Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner or from



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**Berta
Nakó**

Francisc (Ferencz) Deák, of Romanian origin, called “the nation’s wise man”, whose face is printed on the most valuable Hungarian bill, the 20,000 forint one. One of the rooms housed the hunting trophies of count Kálmán, brought from his first expedition to Africa.

Unfortunately, the valuable items from the Counts Nakó’s castle disappeared after World War I, when Banat was, for a short time, under Serbian and French ruling.

Over time, the Nakó Castle had several destinations: it was the residence of the first agricultural school from Romania, it became the legionnaire headquarters in 1941 and a weaponry storage facility. After the war, it



became the residence of the school for tractor drivers and of the agricultural school (1949-1951; 1953-1955); later on, it hosted the Béla Bartók Museum, inaugurated in 1981, then it became the Pioneers’ Centre. After 1990, it was turned into a discotheque and a computer club. In the first decade of the XXIth century, it became the Cultural Centre and the Museum of the town of Sânnicolau Mare.



THE HEALER

Doctor **Ioan Romoșan** was born in Sânnicolau Mare on 9 August 1952. He graduated the Faculty of General Medicine, Timișoara (1977). He earned a PhD in medical sciences (1990). He is a primary doctor of internal medicine - 1990. He became a primary doctor of gastroenterology (1993), after studying with **Ph.D. Prof. Nicolae Barbu**. He became a primary doctor of nephrology (1995), after studying with **Ph.D. Prof. Constantin Zosin** and **Ph.D. Associated Professor Nicolae Mănescu**. He is also a primary doctor of Clinical Immunology (1997). He is the member of the Romanian Athenaeum National Society (1996). He is the member of the Romanian Medical Science Academy (1997), the chief of the University Medical Clinic, the University Hospital C.F. Timișoara (since 1993), he is a university professor, coordinator of the post-graduate studies of gerontology and geriatrics (1997-1998), head of department at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timișoara (1996-2000). He was a Ph.D. coordinator. He was the state secretary for

Budget and Reform in the Ministry of Health, between 1996 and 1998, and manager of the Timiș County Hospital. Head Teacher at the “Victor Babeș” University of Medicine and Pharmacy. He is a member of numerous prestigious medical institutions: the American Institute of Medical Ultrasonography, a member of the International Society of Nephrology, Denver (1981), Paris, Madrid, Member of the EPH Gestosis International Organisation, member of “The Preeclampsia Society” Association (PES), etc. He is the editor-in-chief of the “Newsletter” journal of the Romanian Gerontology and Geriatrics Association, Bucharest, deputy editor-in-chief of the Romanian Journal of Nephrology, Bucharest, deputy editor-in-chief of the Ministry of Health Journal, the editor-in-chief of the “Medical Timișoara”, “The Medical World” (“Lumea Medicală”) and “Medical Legislation Supplement” (“Suplimentul Legislativ Medical”) journals. He is the member of the EDTA Scientific Editorial Board, member of the Board of Directors of the “International Geriatric Nephrology and Urology” Journal, editor-in-chief of honour of the “Romanian Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics”. He is the author of the volumes **Kidney in liver disease**, 1995, **Correlations between the digestive and renal diseases**, 1995, **Kidney in pregnancy**, International Seminar, Timișoara, 1995, etc.

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THE PAINTER

Georgeta Medinski was born in Sânnicolau Mare on 23 November 1954. She graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Timișoara, in 1976. Member of the Union of Plastic Artists, she had many personal and group exhibitions in the country and abroad: Timișoara, Reșița, Austria, Norway, Portugal, USA. She created the scenography for many theater and opera performances at the National Theatre, the German State Theatre and the Romanian Opera House of Timișoara. She has works in private and state-owned collections from Germany, Greece, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, Portugal, Hungary, Belgium, Holland, India,

France, USA, Australia, Ireland. She illustrated the book covers for "Silences of an Actor" by Mircea Belu and "Poems" by Roseanu Runte, the cover of the "Romanian Prose Writers of Today" Collection, the book covers of "Immorality" by Ion Corlan and "Poems" by Mircea Belu. She was awarded the prize for scenography at the "Autor '96" International Festival for the "Seer, don't be a snail" show by Matei Vișniec. She was awarded the prize for scenography of the Union of Plastic Artists from Romania (2004). She was awarded the Knight's order of "the Cultural Merit", D category - "Show Arts". She is a partner of honour of the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre of Timișoara.

Georgeta Medinski's husband, **Andrei Medinski**, is a famous artist and prose writer, and their daughter, **Andreea Medinski Niculescu**, is an appreciated television personality from Timișoara.

HISTORIAN AND DEPUTY

Octavian Dogaru was born in Sânnicolau Mare, Timiș County, on 29 January 1947. He graduated the Faculty of Physics of the University of Bucharest in 1971. He graduated the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Bucharest (1980). He earned a Ph.D. in Physics and one in History. He is the President and founder of the Numismatist Society of Banat. He is a member of the Romanian Numismatist Society. He had a scholarship and he graduated the courses of the "C.M. Lerice" Foundation from Italy on archaeological surveys (1976). He worked as a scientific researcher, a university professor at the University of Timișoara, at

the Agronomic Institute, then as the main curator of the Museum of Banat. He was the director of the Museum of Banat between 2000 and 2004. He is the sole shareholder of the "Dogaresa" company, which manufactures numismatist pieces. He is the manager editor of the



"The Numismatist Information" ("Informația numismatică") magazine. He is also an inventor in the field of physics. He is the author of the volume "**Turbo Pascal: theory and practice**", Timișoara, 1995. He was the deputy of Timiș county in the first legislature (1990 - 1992) of the Parliament of Romania.



DUȘAN BAISKI

He was born in Sânnicolau Mare on 11 March 1955. He graduated the Arts School from Timișoara and the Open University Business School (Great Britain). He was the head of economic - social department at the "Agenda" newspaper from Timișoara (until 2009). He was an outstanding journalist in the country and abroad, collaborating with: "The Students' Forum", "Horizon", Radio Timișoara. The most important among his volumes are: "**Isolated Rains**" (1984), "**The X-Ray of a Common Case**" (1984), "**Love Between the Shadows**" (poems, 1990),

"**The Moon and the Tram**" (1990), "**The Zanies' Square**" (1994). He translated ten volumes from Serbian. He is a member of the Romanian Writers' Union and of ASPRO (the Romanian Professional Writers Association), of the Banatul Cultural Society, APT. He created the "Banat-Media" multilingual digital edition on the internet. He created the website of the Library of Banat, consisting of entire books of writers from Banat, published in several languages. In 1999 he launched the Rastko Cultural Project - the Serbian Library of Romania website, completing the Rastko Project from Banat website. His latest achievement is the publishing of the "Zona Maris" novel-labyrinth on the internet, which is a novel, as well as a computer game.