

CRICIOVA

Local Council Office: Criciova no. 51 A, telephone/fax 0256/335807;

Coordinates:

45°37'46" N lat.;
22°04'12" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

- 1444 - the first mention of Criciova (under the name of **Krychyowa**);
- the Jdioara settlement was not destroyed during the Ottoman ruling of Banat;
- 1739 - the fortress Jdioara was ruled by Habsburgs;
- 1851 - the locality of Jdioara was recorded by the Hungarian historian and geographer **Vályi András** as being a "**Walachian orthodox village**", i.e. it was inhabited by Romanians;
- 1859-1860 - mammoth bones and fossils of sea snails were found in the place called "**The Big Hill**" ("**Gialul Mare**");
- 1900-1910 - Ukrainian population migrated to the village of Cireșu, drawn by the Hungarian owners of forests;
- 1918 - the locality received the official name of Criciova;
- 1924 - the village of Criciova had 1,027 inhabitants;
- 1936 - the village of Jdioara had 1,143 inhabitants, 252 houses, it had a primary school, two mills, a men's choir, a post office;
- 25 June 1947 - **Petre Arnăutu** was born in Jdioara, leader of the "Politehnica" Timișoara football team at the middle of the '70s, last century;
- 1954 - 50 Ukrainian families founded the colony of **Cireșu Nou** on the road leading to Lugoj;
- 1964 - the Cireșu Nou settlement was added to the village of Cireșu Mic;
- 2002 - the commune had 1,716 inhabitants, of which 19.5% were Ukrainians;
- 3 September 2006 - the first edition of the celebration "The Days of the Fortress of

Jdioara"

- April 2010 - early elections were held to appoint a mayor, won by the priest

Petru Rosoca;
Total population

on 1 January

2010: 1,601 per-

sons, of which:

- male = 792 per-

sons

-female = 809

persons

Number of households on 1 January
2010: 642

Member villages: Criciova, Cireșu (1603, Cziresul), Cireșu Mic (1954) and Jdioara (1320, **castellans of Sydouar**);

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (V-VIII): Criciova; Kindergartens with normal hours: Criciova, Cireșu and Jdioara;

Health facilities: Local clinic: Criciova; Sanitary-veterinary practice: Criciova;

Cultural institutions: Community centres: Criciova (two), Cireșu and Jdioara; Library: Criciova (founded in 1962);

Churches and monasteries: Romanian Orthodox Churches: Criciova (1876), Cireșu (1834) and Jdioara (1907); Ukrainian Orthodox Churches: Criciova; Baptist Churches: Criciova, Cireșu and Jdioara; the Pereununs' monastery from Cireșu;

Annual Church Festivals and other cultural and religious events: Annual church festivals in: Jdioara (29 June - Saints Apostles Peter and Paul), Criciova (15 August - the Assumption of Mary), Cireșu (26 October - Saint Demetrius) and Criciova - the annual Ukrainian church festival (21 November); "The Day's of the Fortress" of Jdioara (September).



THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF CRICIOVA

Rosoca Petru	Mayor	Matei Ionel, LC member	CP
Cătănă Cristian Iosif	Vice Mayor	Mustăța Nicușor, LC member	SDP
Cesea Ioan Titus, LC member	DLP	Rosoca Gheorghe, LC member	UUR
Crivineanțu Tiberiu, LC member	NLP	Todor Gh. Dan, LC member	SDP
Fetyko Stela, LC member	SDP	Șandor Ion, LC member	DLP
Grasu Nicolae, LC member	NLP		

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GHEORGHE CIOCĂNEȘTI, THE CASTELLAN OF JDIOARA

Jdioara, a locality belonging to the commune of Criciova, was first mentioned in 1215, under the name of **Zsidovar**. It seems that the fortress was part of Glad's Voivodeship in the past, in the Xth-XIth centuries. But Jdioara seems to have been founded in the IInd – IIIrd centuries AD, during the Roman colonisation, according to the historian **Vasile Maniu** from Banat. He stated that the Romans brought rebellious Jewish people from Minor Asia to the area. On the contrary, the Hungarian historians - according to **Ion Lotreanu** - stated that the name of the fortress came from the Hungarian people, **Jidovi**, who allegedly built the fortress. The dating of the fortress to the Middle Ages is more plausible, although the building may be older, and the first fortifications on the hill called "**Fortress**" date before the medieval era. It is possible that Jdioara had been one of the Dacian fortresses that guarded the road towards the Nădrag mines and, at the same time, the road along the Timiș Valley, which connected the south of Banat, through the Bega Valley, with the gold deposits region from the Apuseni mountains. The fortress, built on a hill which dominates the Timiș Valley, is naturally protected by a chain of high hills. It had the shape of a square with rounded corners. The walls, 180 centimetres thick, were made of limestone, connected by mortar, plastered both on the inside and outside.

On 18 February 1600, Voivode Michael the Brave issued a document through which



he awarded the title of noble to **Gheorghe Ciocănești**, castellan of the Fortress of Jdioara. The noble document was dated 18 February 1600, Alba-Iulia, and it seems to be the only one of the kind preserved since the time of Michael the Brave. The Ciocănești brothers from Banat: Gheorghe, Nicolae, Ioan and Petru, were among the trusted men of Lord Michael, but they do not appear in the chronicles as often as the Buzești brothers from Oltenia. The Ciocănești (Chiokoniesthi) name does not refer to the village with the same name from Dâmbovița county, or to the Ciocănești settlement from Suceava county, but it has its origin in the settlement of **Chokoniest**, nowadays disappeared, found in the area of Făget from Banat.

From an archeological point of view, the fortress was studied in 1930 by the historians Constantin Daicoviciu and Ioan Miloia from Banat. Nowadays the ruins of the fortress are part of the national historical heritage.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE FORTRESS

"The Days of the fortress of Jdioara" were first celebrated in Criciova on 3 September 2006. This was a good occasion for the local people to meet in the square in



front of the Community Centre to celebrate according to their customs, with songs and dances on folk music from Banat.

CRICIOVA

A FLATTERING PORTRAIT



The German writer **Johann Kaspar Steube** travelled through Banat between 1772 and 1781. Keen observer of the customs and traditions of the peoples from the Banat region of the XVIIIth century, Steube recorded in his book “**Nine years in Banat**” (published in Gotha in 1791) a flattering portrait of Romanian women from Banat: “While unmarried, the Romanian women do not cover their heads or have their hair braided. In some places, married women cover their heads with a sort of striped cloth, sometimes even with fine silk, folded as if it were a hood. Young girls, as well as the married women, seek to improve their looks through their trendiness. The girls believe that they obtain this by braiding their hair with different threads of green, red or yellow colour, and with different colour beads. Married women hang small value coins from their scarves, but these coins have to be Turkish silver ones, usually very thick or rough. There are, here and there, married women who have 17 kreutzer (Siebenzehner) or 20 kreutzer (Kopfstick) coin necklaces. Women also wear coins, beads or glass beads around their necks, and the gipsies earn quite well from the earrings they make. Some Romanian women wear shirts decorated with woollen, silk or gold threads when they go to fairs, churches or on other occasions. Moreover, their coquetry goes further than that, thus, in order to shine at a dance or a ball, the girls often borrow the coin necklaces or the pearl necklaces - of course against a small reward - from the ones who cannot take part in the dance for one reason or the other. A true evidence that they are also Eva’s daughters.”

VILLA RUSTICA

The archeologists Constantin Daicoviciu and Ion Miloia discovered the ruins of walls built in an opus caementicium system, the stone being connected by a solid and good quality mortar, in the north part of the village of Criciova, at only 300 metres of the county road, in a place called by the locals “Tramnic”, on a surface of approximately 600 square metres (in September 1930). They found there pieces of brick, frag-



ments of painted plaster and even remains of mural paintings. Hence the assumption that a Roman military settlement, a sort of **fort** (having a rectangular shape) or a **villa rustica**, possibly from the IIIrd century AD, existed at Tramnic, especially because the archeologists found an iron mine in Criciova, located in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, on Timiș valley, exploited ever since the times of the Romans.

PETRE ARNĂUTU

The football player Petre Arnăutu was born in the village of Jdioara on 25 June 1947. He was a sports teacher, an excep-



tional defense player for the “Politehnica” Timișoara football team, a right central defender,

with a special high jump, a true master of the heading game and a true leader of the team (1973 - 1977). As a sports teacher and a football coach,

he trained the star who would become a football player for the famous **AC Milan** team, but also for the national team of Romania: **Cosmin Contra**.