

## CIACOVA

**Local Council Office:** Ciacova, 8 Cetății Square, telephone/fax 0256/399600;

**Web page address:**

<http://www.primariaciacova.ro>;

**Coordinates:**

45°30'40" N lat.;

21°7'42" E long.;

**Historical landmarks:**

**1220 - 1224** - Ciacova is first mentioned in documents, under the name of **Behic**, in the will of count Behics;

**1332-1337** - a census ordered by Vatican records the settlement under the name of **Chak** or **Chac**;

- during this time the village is populated by many Serbian families from across the Danube, which fled the Ottomans invasion;

**1359** - the Hungarian king Sigismund, of Louxemburg offers **Nicolae Csak** (Ciacu), future prince of Ardeal, and his brother Gheorghe, domains in Transylvania in return for the Ciacova fort;

**1392-1395** - the defense tower (**Cula**) from Ciacova is raised;

**29.09.1395** - the Ottoman army besiege the fort of Ciacova, which proves to be difficult to defeat due to its defense ditch network;

- the fort of Ciacova was based on the right bank of Timișul Mort river, and the civilian settlements was located on the left bank;

**1404** - the settlements of Ciacova, Tolvădia and Voiteni are the property of **Hagymás de Beregso** (Beregsău);

**18.09.1551** - Ciacova is subdued by the Ottomans, who face no resistance from the local garrison;



**1701** - the defensive system is destroyed, only the tower (**cula**) is left standing;

**08.1716** - during the Habsburg occupation, the Banat region is divided into four districts: Caransebeș, Marga, Pancevo and Ciacova, governed by a “viceșpan” (subprefect, substitute of the administrator of a county or a district); the “viceșpan” of Ciacova is **Ștefan Racz** (1718);

**after 1718** - the village is heavily colonized by Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, and Luxembourgers;

**1720** - the fourth school from Banat is established in Ciacova, and the acting teacher is **Johann Brannenburg**;

**15.09.1732** - the cornerstone of the new Roman-Catholic church is laid;

- the construction was destroyed in 1738 following the Ottoman attacks, consequently it was finished later on, in **1741**;

**1742** - **Dositei Obradovici**, monk, writer, translator and advocate of Enlightenment, is born in Ciacova in a family of Serbian craftsmen (d. 1811);

**1770** - emperor Joseph II of Habsburg stops by Ciacova;

**1780** - the Jewish Community from Ciacova is established and builds a synagogue;

### CITY HALL AND LOCAL COUNCIL OF CIACOVA

<b>FILIP PETRU</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	MICU EUGEN, LC Member	SDP
<b>GHERA DACIAN</b>	<b>Vice Mayor</b>	PEIA GHEORGHE, LC Member	DLP
AVRĂMUȚ LIVIU, LC Member	DLP	PEIA IONEL, LC Member	DLP
BALAZS ALEXANDRU, LC Member	SDP	PETRIȘOR IOAN, LC Member	DLP
DAVIDOVICI ZORAN, LC Member	SDP	POPAS CRISTIAN DORIAN, LC Member	SDP
DOGAR BUJOR GHEORGHE, LC Member	DLP	ȘCHIOPU ROMAN, LC Member	NLP
HITIAN MARIUS MIHAI, LC Member	SDP	TABACU PETRU, LC Member	DLP
IANOȘEL MIHAI AUREL, LC Member	SDP	TRETA PETRIȘOR, LC Member	IND

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**1795** - the first pharmacy from Ciacova, "La Sfânta Treime", is inaugurated;

**end of XVIII<sup>th</sup> century** - several families from Ardeal settle in Ciacova;

**1807 - The Religious Fund** (Fondul Religionar) is created, for the purpose of populating the village with Hungarians from Győr, Szeged and Mosony;

**23.04.1823** - Ciacova becomes a market town and gains certain privileges;

**24 December 1851 - Sofia Vlad-Rădulescu**, is born, author of local inspiration theater plays, mother of the writer **Victor Vlad Delamarina**;

**1879** - the first "Credit and savings bank" is founded;

**1880** - the first library from Ciacova is built;

**1881-1882** - the first weekly newspaper from Ciacova is published: "**Csako vaer Wochenblatt**";

**1881** - "The Volunteer Firemen" is founded;

**1882** - opening of the first photo shop;

**1881-1902** - the newspaper "**Csako vaer Zeitung**" is published;

**1.10. 1885** - "The Agricultural School" Ciacova is established;

**1888** - musicologist **Lazăr K. Lera** is born in Ciacova (d. 1966);

**1889** - the new steam mill, based on the bank of Timișul Vechi river is operational;

**6.08.1893** - the first railway route, between Jebel and Ciacova, is opened for public;

**1894** - the railway route between Ciacova and Giera becomes operational;

**1896 - Brandeisz Josef** is born, musicologist, violin player, professor (d.1978);

**1897** - gas based lighting is implemented;

**1901-1902** - the old wooden bridge crossing Timișul Vechi (Old Timiș) river is replaced by a solid stone bridge;

**1904** - "The Alcohol Factory" and the second soda factory are established;

**1906** - "The Football Club" and "the Tennis Club" are founded;

- **Borislav Popovici** is born in Ciacova, dr. lawyer, the first rector of Timișoara Teaching Staff High School (d. 1982);

**1909** - the new village hospital is built;

**1911** - opening of the cinema hall, the "Nursing Home for Elderly People" and the "Electrical Plant" comes into service;

**1912 - Nikola Petrovici** is born, historian, former minister in the Belgrade Government (d. 1998);

**1913** - electric public lighting is available, and shortly after it is extended to private houses, too;

**1913** - "The Ice Factory" is established;

**15.08.1919** - The Romanian army enters Ciacova and liberates the city from the Hungarian occupation;

**18 July 1923 - Ioan Olariu** is born in Ciacova, a poet who writes in Banat dialect (d.2005);

**1923-1924** - the girls' school, later on chartered as a nun monastery, is nationalized under the name of "Alexandru Mocioni";

**1936** - the public swimming pool is built and a recreational ground as well as the park surrounding the "Turkish Tower" (Cula) are arranged;

- the present-day town hospital is built;

**21 martie 1939** - se naște în satul Cebza **Ion Mut**, povestitor în grai bănățean (d. 2004);

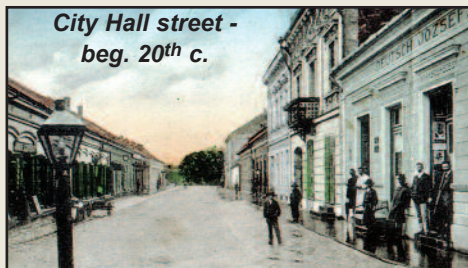
**1948 - Mariana Voicu** is born, literary assistant and artistic advisor of the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theater from Timișoara;

**1951 - Doru Eugen Popin**, poet and translator, is born in Ciacova;

**18 January 1953** - poet **Ion Monoran** is born in Petroman (d. 2.12.1993);

**1956** - the secondary school from Ciacova becomes active again, under the name of "Theoretical High School" from Ciacova and the "Agricultural School" is reopened under the name of "Agricultural High School" from Ciacova;

- Ciacova becomes the seat of a district



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(raion);

**1959** - the Jewish Community sells the synagogue building to the Romanian state, and later on it is demolished; the resulting raw materials are used to build a new school and an auditorium;

**23 June 1965** - **Gheorghe Nuțu Iotcovici** is born in Cebza, killed on 17 December 1989 in Timișoara. **Hero - Martyr;**

**27 January 1968** - **Simona Constantino-vici** is born in Ciacova, a poet, prose writer, essayist and journalist;

**1981** - the volunteer firemen celebrate 100 years of existence;

**1995** - the 600 year celebration of the fort of Ciacova;

**2004** - Ciacova is officially declared city;

**2005** - the 200 year celebration of the Greek-Catholic marble cross, next to which it has been raised "The St. Mary Column" belonging to the Roman-Catholic Church;

**Total population on 01.01.2010:** 5,125 persons, of which:

male = 2,471 persons

female = 2,654 persons

**Number of households on 01.01.2010 =** 2,102;

**Member villages:** Cebza (XIV<sup>th</sup> c.- Cevzen), Macedonia (1332 - 1337), Obad (1401, Ohad) and Petroman (1333 - Petrus, Petree);

**Educational institutions:** "Alexandru Mocioni" High School from Ciacova; Primary and Elementary School from Ciacova; Primary Schools: Cebza, Obad, Macedonia, Petroman; Kindergartens with normal hours: Ciacova, Petroman, Macedonia, Obad, Cebza; All Day Kinder-gartens: Ciacova;

**Health facilities:** Ciacova Health Center; Ciacova Health Care Center for Elderly; Medical clinics: Ciacova, Cebza and Ma-



Central Square, beg. 20th c.

cedonia; Veterinary clinic: Ciacova; Human Pharmacy: Ciacova; Veterinary Pharmacy: Ciacova;

**Cultural institutions:** The Cultural Center from Ciacova; Festivities Hall: Ciacova; Community centers: Cebza, Macedonia, Obad and Petroman; Museum: Ciacova; Library: Ciacova (founded in 2004);

**Fitness and sports facilities:** - "Alexandru Mocioni" High School: Ciacova; Stadium: Ciacova; Handball court: "Alexandru Mocioni" High School Ciacova; Tennis court: Ciacova; Football field: Cebza, Macedonia, Obad and Petroman.

**Churches and other places of worship:**

- Romanian orthodox churches: Ciacova (1900); Cebza (1880); Obad (1883); Macedonia (1813); Petroman (XVII<sup>th</sup> c.); The Orthodox Church from Cebza cemetery - historic monument (XVI<sup>th</sup> c.); the Serbian Orthodox Church: Ciacova (1786); Roman-Catholic Churches: Ciacova (1881); Obad; The Greek-Catholic Church from Petroman (2<sup>nd</sup> half of XIX<sup>th</sup> c.); Pentecostal Church from Ciacova (1994); Baptist Church Ciacova (1996);

**Village celebrations :** Petroman (29 June - St. Peter and Paul), Ciacova and Macedonia (15 August - Assumption of Mary), Cebza (Pentecost) and Obad (8 September - Birth of Mary).

## CITIZENS OF HONOUR

Petcu Trifu, Nicolae Banu, Manfred Niebecker, Kóbor Gheorghe, Merschorf William, Ion Vintilă (1995).

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THE TOWER (CULA) FROM CIACOVA,  
AND ITS SISTER FROM VÂRȘEȚ

Following the destruction of the Ciacova fort at the beginning of XVIII<sup>th</sup> c., the only living proof of the old fort (from the XIV<sup>th</sup> c.) was the tower, which was the "keep" of the fortress or **CULA**, as the people from Banat were calling it, located near the Ciacova railway station, on the bank of Timișul Mort river. Cula withstood the test of centuries. Made of brick, with 4 levels - ground floor and three upper levels - rectangular shaped, with corner counterforts, the tower was 23.70 m high and its foundation was over four meters deep. Originally, the tower entrance was on the first floor and could be reached by passing a drawbridge.



In 1898, the tower was renovated by **Josef Brandeis**, architect and engineer from Ciacova, who turned it into a tower for firemen, by significantly changing the building. In 1936 a water tank of around 60 cubic meters was mounted on the third level. The mounting of the water tank led to the deterioration of the building; the leaking water caused dampness on walls, which cracked due to the freezing cold. A steel door was mounted at the ground level in 1960. Between 1962-1963, the tower was renovated and consolidated, but was seriously damaged during the earthquakes from 1991 and 1992.

The twin sister of Cula from Ciacova can be seen on the heights of Vârșeț, a town in Serbian Banat. Allegedly, the two towers were connected by underground tunnels - actual tunnels covered in fired bricks (linking the fortresses of Ciacova and Obad), whose traces were no longer preserved. The fact remains that in 1990, during the building of the new city hall, evidences of the tunnel's existence were discovered. Cula from Vârșeț, received a very practical role in the XX<sup>th</sup> c.: to host a TV transmitter (since 1960), to broadcast the Rome Olympics program received from the Belgrade TV station. Thanks to the antenna in Cula Vârșețului, the Rome Olympics could be watched in Romanian Banat, too.

## Dositej Obradović

He was born on 17 February 1742, in Ciacova, son of Đorđe - maker of leather coats from the same village - and Krunei Paunkic from Sânmartinu Sârbesc. After the early death of his parents, he remained in the custody of an uncle, who wished to see him become a priest. But Dositej wished to become a monk. So, he left Ciacova and joined a travelling monk on his way to the Ottoman Empire. The authorities were alerted by his uncle, the boy was found and sent back home, and then to school, in Timișoara. He ran away again and in August 1757 arrived at the Novo Hopovo mo-



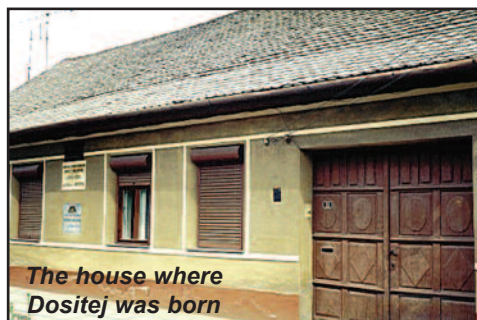
nastery from Serbia, where he became deacon and acquired the name Dositej (Dositei). Due to the arguments with the other monks, envious of his knowledge, on 2 November 1760, together with deacon Atanasije, he left the monastery incognito and travelled to Zagreb, capital of Croatia, where he stayed until 1761.

For decades, he wandered around Europe, from Athos Mountain to Vienna, from Constantinople to Trieste, from Paris to London, from Iași to Focșani to Hamburg. Scholar, writer and Serbian translator advocating Enlightenment, he had learned both Serbian and Romanian since an early age, while living in Ciacova. Later on, he learned easily other languages and dialects, too: Old and Modern Greek, Latin, German, English, French, Albanian, Italian. Dositej settled in Serbia in 1806. In 1808 he founded "The Big School" from Belgrade, which was to become a university afterwards.

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Dositej Obradović passed away in 1811 in Belgrade. One of his biographers, writer **Dușan Baiski**, noticed that wherever he wandered - be it sunny Greece or foggy London - he was welcomed extremely well, like a brother and always left full of presents. So, the writer Dușan Baiski asked a legitimate question: **“How did he win so easily people’s hearts, even the English-men’s?”** He also came up with the answer: **“Easy. The principle he went by was: be good to the others and the others will be good to you. But, it is said that Dositej was a Freemason. Might that be the explanation for the way people treated Dositej? Everything is possible.”**

The scholar was honored in Timișoara, by giving his name to the Serbian language high



School: “Dositeji Obradovici High School”. The institution runs in the Monastic Roman-Catholic Center of the poor sisters “Notre Dame” located in the Iosefin residential district.

## THE GOLDEN CLARINET

**Pavel Cebzan**, one of the greatest performers from Banat, was born on 10 June 1944. He learns the art of clarinet from professors Iosif Fair and Maxim Frunză. He played in the folklore band “Lazăr Cernescu” from an early age. He worked with the “Banatul” Orchestra from Timișoara, then with The Radio Folk Music Orchestra, led by George Vancu and Ionel Budișteanu. Between 1976-1986 he was a member of the famous Gheorghe Zamfir Orchestra, alongside Dorin Cuibaru, Paul Stângă, Marin Chisăr, Efta Botoca. They performed in some of the greatest European capitals, but also in USA, Canada,



South Africa, and on the stage of the Opera from Sydney-Australia. His songs were recorded at Radio Timișoara, in Serbia and USA, and songs like „**The bird and the wren**“, **“I’m afraid I’ll die tomorrow”** were well known to those who loved the true folklore. In 1989 he settled in Chicago-USA. In 1994 he recorded the CD and audio tape “Zamfir-Paul Stângă”. Despite being out of the country for 20 years, his dance songs, like **“Brâu”** (Romanian traditional dance), **“The beetle”**, **“Ardeleana” from Ciclova**, or **“Cebzan’s brâu”** are still present in the memory of local folklore, which received a tremendous boost due to the golden clarinet of Pavel Cebzan.



## THE PUBLICIST FROM OBAD

1875 was the year **Petru Bandu** was born in Obad, in a family of farmers. He attended the primary school in Obad, and the secondary school in Ciacova. He graduated the Teaching Staff School from Caransebeș. In 1909 he moved to Reșița as an orthodox confessional teacher. He was elected president of the Teachers’ Association from Caransebeș Diocese, he was chief secretary of the Teachers’ Union from the same diocese., member of the Management Board of the “Berzava” Savings House. He was promoted and ended up as director of the Civil School from Reșița.

Petru Bandu was a well known publicist, cooperating with several newspapers and journals published before the First World War, such as the newspaper “The Flag” from Lugoj. He was a militant for the rights of people of Banat, he arose the feeling of national identity after the The Great Unification on 1 December 1918. Petru Bandu became the director of the newspaper “Valea Bârzavei” from Reșița. He passed away on 29 January 1929.

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## THE POET OF THE REVOLUTION

**Ion Monoran** ("Mono", as his friends and colleagues used to call him) was born on 18.01.1953, in Petroman. He began his studies in his home town, and then attended the Theoretical High School no.7 in Bălcescu Square (Lahovary) from Timișoara. In February 1971, that high School and another school from Timișoara, were under investigation by Securitatea Timiș (Romanian Secret Service), led by majors Cornel Vrăbeț, Ion Florea and Mihai Jurj. Eight students were interrogated for planning to flee to Yugoslavia and then to Italy. They were ratted to the Securitate by a fellow student in Economic Sciences (A.B.), investigated and arrested. One of them yielded (I.V.) and gave information to the three officers. The leaders of the students who planned to flee from Ceaușescu' Romania, **Ion Monoran** and **Silvian Baiconi**, were forced to confess their intent to escape the "ceaușist" regime. The investigation ended with Ion Monoran's expulsion from school and his sentence to "re-education" in a factory. Monoran was allowed to continue his studies in 1978, after major Ion Florea acknowledged in writing that the student under investigation, expelled and convicted, had no further plans to leave the socialist country! He was "re-educated", and that event had a significant influence on Mono for a long time.

On 16.12.1989, **Ion Monoran**, **Z. Borbély**, **D. Zăgănescu** blocked the tramway in Maria Square, close to the reformed church of pastor László Tőkés. He climbed the wagon bumpers and talked to the crowd. The people descended from the trams and joined the crowd protesting against the eviction of Tőkés from the eparchy, according to the order of the communist authorities from Bucharest. Monoran entered the history of the Romanian Revolution as a person who pushed the Timișoara residents to uprising against the Ceaușescu dictatorship. In January 1990 he founded the future daily newspaper "Timișoara". Ion Monoran was the soul of the daily newspaper "Timișoara" for three years. He died on 02.12.1993. "He died of a broken heart", assumed the poet's friends. His talent was rewarded with the Poetry Prize of Orizont literary journal (1987), "Nichita Stănescu" Award for Contemporary Poetry (1987), The prize of the Literary Creation Contest (Satu-Mare, 1987), The Debut Award of the Writers' Union of Romania, Timiș branch, for his book "**Locus periucundus**".



## "MĂSEDOLEANUL"

Graduate of the Faculty of Electrotechnics, department of Computer Science, of the Polytechnic University from Timișoara (1976). PhD in engineering, specialized in Computer Science (1991). Professor at the Polytechnic University, department of Computer Science. Specialist in Information Science. Editorial advisor of "University Horizons" ("Orizonturi Universitare") Publishing House. Professor **Horia Ciocârlie** was the first prefect from Timiș after 1989 (his predecessors came from Banatul de Munte, Caraș-Severin, Oltenia and Ardeal). Six months after his birth, his parents moved from Timișoara to the village of Macedonia, where he grew. That is the reason why Ciocârlie thinks that his home place is the village of Macedonia, not Timișoara. "**I am măsedolean!**", professor Horia Ciocârlie proudly claims the rural area of Ciacova...



## A SETTLEMENT FOR NUNS

The Historical Monument of the old monastery from Cebza, raised under the patronage of "The Elevation of the Holy Cross", is built of wood, rectangular shaped, with brick foundation, plastered oak beam walls, and tile roof. The age of the church was estimated around 1758. The story says that it may be the successor of an older church, dated before XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, built above a healing spring which used to run by the altar. In 1996, His Holiness, Metropolitan Nicolae Corneanu supported the reactivation of this old monachal settlement for nuns.

