

ROMANIANS CROSSING BORDERS

AND MAKING HISTORY

A LIVING STATUES THEATRE PERFORMANCE

LUCIA STURDZA BULANDRA

The immense actress and eminent theater figure, Lucia Sturdza Bulandra, was born on August 25th, 1873, in Iasi, Romania, as a descendant of the extraordinary Sturdza family of Romanian nobles, which boasts rulers of Moldova, diplomats, politicians, writers, and historians among its members. She wanted to become a teacher, but destiny had other plans for her. At just 18 years old, she took to the stage at the National Theater, unfazed by an unsuccessful debut or her family's excommunication. She enrolled as a student of the great actress Aristizza Romanescu at the Conservatory and in 1901 found herself among the employees of the National Theater.

She met the man who would become her husband and theatrical partner, Tony Bulandra, in 1911 while playing in the film *Fatal Love* (a name predestined for them).

In 1947, Lucia Sturdza Bulandra was appointed director of the Municipal Theater, a position she held until her death in September 1961. She taught at the Conservatory of Dramatic Art in Bucharest for 30 years, and among her students were illustrious names in Romanian theater, such as Nicolae Bălățeanu, George Calboreanu, Radu Beligan, Dina Cocea, Victor Rebengiuc, Aura Buzescu, Mihai Popescu, Fory Etterle, Alexandru Giugaru, and Nineta Gusti.

Some of her notable roles in plays by Sardou, Ibsen, Schiller, Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, and Gorki remain formidable milestones in Romanian interpretive art.

Speaking of Lucia Sturdza Bulandra, the great director Sică Alexandrescu called her "a noblewoman of Romanian theater."

HARICLEEA DARCLEE

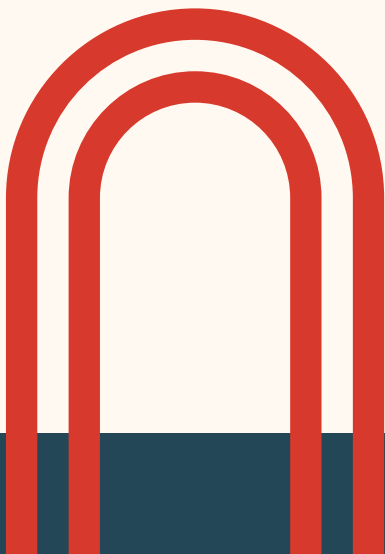
The great singer Haricleea Darclee was born on June 10, 1860, in Braila, in a family with Greek roots. Her mother was related to the family of Prince Mavrocordat. She polished her vocal skills at the Conservatory in Paris. She was recognized and admired by the most famous musicians of her time. Charles Gounod entrusted her with the role of Marguerite in the opera Faust. She made her debut at La Scala in Milan in 1890 with the role of Chimene in Massenet's Cid, and in 1900 she sang in the absolute premiere of Puccini's Tosca in Rome.

She loved to sing in Romania, the public adored her, poets composed verses for her, and Carol I awarded her the Bene Merente Class I order.

She occupies a special place in the history of universal opera, almost half of her repertoire representing original works.

She died on January 12, 1939, in Bucharest, poor and forgotten by everyone.

Haricleea Darclee, nicknamed the enchanting fairy-tale bird, the nightingale of the Carpathians!



ELVIRA POPESCU

On May 10th, 1894, Elvira Popescu was born in Bucharest, an actress of theater and film who had a formidable career in France.

She graduated from the Conservatory of Dramatic Art in Bucharest and was employed at the National Theater, where she was given leading roles from the beginning of her career. French authors occupied a place of predilection in her repertoire, and Louis Verneuil, at that time one of the most spiritual and trendy authors of vaudevilles, was her favorite. Verneuil invited her to play in Paris, hired her at the De la Michodiere theater, and in the play *Ma cousine de Varsovie* (My Cousin from Warsaw), she had a tremendous success, and even though she did not speak French perfectly, she was unanimously appreciated by the entire press, which launched the famous formula "Elvira Popescu's accent."

Her shows were on the billboards for years, some of them exceeding 2,000 performances. Her film career, carried out between 1920 and 1970, brought her partners like Alain Delon and Claudia Cardinale.

The French called her *Notre Dame du Theatre* and the queen of boulevard plays. She was the inspiration for Henri Matisse's famous painting "La blouse roumaine," painted in 1940. In the 1930s, she was more popular in France than Greta Garbo. She passed away on December 11, 1993, at the venerable age of 99, and is buried in Pere-Lachaise cemetery in Paris. She was awarded the "Molière" award for best actress, awarded by the French actors' association, and twice with the Legion of Honor, one of the highest distinctions of the French state.

SMARANDA BRĂESCU

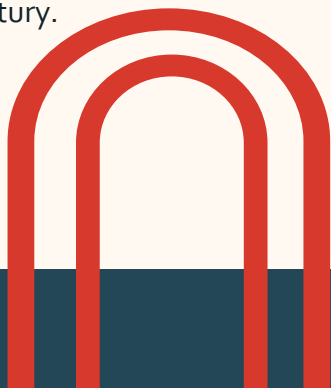
Smaranda Brăescu was part of a small group of women who changed the mindset in Romanian society. They demonstrated that they were just as capable as men in taking risks and accomplishing difficult and dangerous missions, such as flying airplanes and parachuting, which were considered male-dominated activities at the time. Despite her delicate appearance, Smaranda had an iron will and great tenacity. After her sensational parachute jump from 6000 meters, Marta Bibescu wrote to her, "Please accept, dear Miss Brăescu, the warm admiration that I keep for you as an aviator's wife, as a Romanian, and as a woman." Following her world record-breaking achievement, she was invited to a major aviation event in Canada, where the plane carrying her was welcomed and escorted by 40 Canadian planes, as is customary for the world's greatest athletes.

Her dream was to become a pilot, and she succeeded in obtaining her license on October 8, 1932, becoming the third female pilot in Romania after Elena Caragiani (license obtained in 1914) and Ioana Cantacuzino (license obtained in 1930).

She needed an airplane to break the speed record, so she returned to Romania, where she benefited from a law that provided state assistance to aviators, covering half of the cost of an airplane if the aviator himself or herself could provide the other half. However, she did not receive any support, and even considered becoming a nun, but Stelian Popescu, the director of the Universul newspaper, wrote a powerful article entitled "Let Me Fly," which created a favorable movement and raised the necessary funds for her to purchase an airplane, a Miles Hawk Major. In December 1934, she left for London, and in January her airplane, named Aurel Vlaicu, was ready for training.

She crossed the Mediterranean Sea, flying from Rome to Tripoli, a distance of 1200 km in a straight line, in a single-engine plane.

Smaranda Brăescu expressed her pride in being Romanian through her attire, words, and actions. She was certainly the greatest female athlete in Romania in the first half of the 20th century.



ALICE COCEA

Romania is doing very well in the possible ranking of the great femme fatales of the time, through actress Alice Cocea, rightfully considered the first great Parisian diva. She was born in Sinaia in 1897, in a family with a genealogical tree that goes back to Nicolae Coci, seneschal of Mihai Viteazul, and the father of the ruler Vasile Lupu. In her parents' house, Alice met Tudor Arghezi, Gala Galaction, and Aristizza Romanescu, at the urging of whom she took an exam at the Conservatory and entered the class of actor Petre Liciu. She played as a student at the National Theater with quite a success, then, at the end of 1915, she went to Paris, where she continued her studies at the Conservatory, was hired at the "Varietes" theater, and then was called by Sacha Guitry at "Bouffes-Parisiennes," where she obtained the role of the protagonist in "Le scandal de Deauville," playing alongside two sacred monsters: Sacha Guitry and Gaby Morlay.

Her theatrical career experienced an upward trend, in the spring of 1927, the critic of the specialized magazine "Comoedia" (from March 21) noted: "Alice Cocea has achieved a success of the most beautiful quality. It is impossible for anyone to possess more grace, intelligence, mischievous finesse, and youthfulness."

Her existence, however, is under the sign of perpetual scandal. The femme fatale Alice Cocea counts no less than three suicides due to her charm, is arrested after the war on charges of collaboration with Nazi forces, is released due to lack of clear evidence, has several appreciated films at that time, is a recognized director and especially a teacher, among her students being renowned names such as Jean Louis Barrault and Gerard Philipe. Alice Cocea, the Parisian diva of the early 20th century.

MARIA VIRGINIA ANDREESCU HARET

Virginia Maria Andreescu-Haret is the first female architect in Romania and the fourth in the world. She was born on June 21, 1894 in Bucharest.

She became an orphan at the age of 9 and took on all the responsibilities of caring for her three younger brothers, but she attended high school privately, enrolled in the School of Architecture, and was considered an exceptional student.

She was a member of all the architect organizations in Romania, fulfilled numerous duties within the Ministry of Public Education, becoming the world's first female architect to hold the position of Inspector General in architecture. She designed and built numerous school headquarters, high schools, and is the author of the project for the building of the Romanian Youth Society in Bucharest, the Holy Trinity Church in Ghencea, numerous family homes, the Cinema Casino Theater in Govora, and the Baneasa meteorological station.

During World War I, she interrupted her studies to work as a nurse.

She was a woman who knew how to make herself heard, fought for the implementation of a Romanian style of architecture, and commanded respect and appreciation. Speaking of her, the great architect Henriette Delavrancea-Gibory would say: "(Anamaria) - Virginia broke the wall, Virginia entered through the big door, her nature conquered and paved the way for women in architecture."

Virginia Maria Andreescu-Haret, an architect for Romania and for her own destiny.

CAROL DAVILA

It was 1853 when Prince Barbu Știrbey sent Dr. Picolo to Paris to recruit a fresh graduate from the Faculty of Medicine in the French capital for a two-year contract, with the aim of organizing the military health service in Wallachia. The person who accepted the contract was an Italian born in Parma, a doctor of medicine in Paris, 25 years old, who arrived in Bucharest in the same year, 1853, and was to remain there for the rest of his life, living, working, and dying as a Romanian. His name was Carol Davila!

He completely reorganized the military and civil health service, fundamentally contributed to the organization of medical education in Romania, organized the Romanian ambulance service, which then distinguished itself during the War of Independence, established a school for orderlies, a secondary school of surgery, established the National School of Medicine and Pharmacy.

After 10 years, in 1869, he founded the Faculty of Medicine, introduced medical competitions and mandatory internships in hospitals, established the first orphanage for girls and an orphanage for boys, established a school for the deaf and mute, and together with the pharmacist Hepites, laid the foundations of Romanian pharmacy. He actively participated in extinguishing the cholera outbreaks in Braila and the exanthematic typhus in the Telega prison, fell ill but survived, established the Botanical Garden in Bucharest, and represented Romania at the Universal Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 with a medical department. In 1860, he was promoted to the rank of general. In 1868, King Carol offered him Romanian citizenship through a decree-law.

On August 24, 1884, he passed away, leaving behind a pioneering work that has never been matched.

On his business card, only one word was written: Davila. It was enough for everyone.

THEODOR PALLADY

On April 11th, 1871, one of Romania's most prestigious modern artists, painter Theodor Pallady, was born in Iasi to a long-standing family of Moldavian boyars.

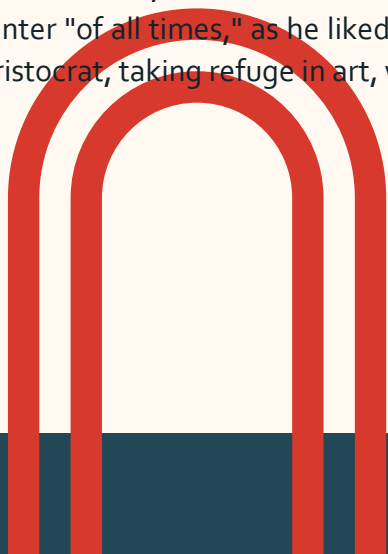
Theodor Pallady first studied engineering at the Technical University in Dresden, then went to Paris where he enrolled at the Académie des Beaux-Arts. In 1892, he entered Gustave Moreau's workshop, where he would have Henri Matisse as a colleague, with whom he formed a close friendship.

In 1904, he returned to Romania and exhibited at the Romanian Athenaeum and at the Official Salons. However, he maintained his connection to Paris, where he held several solo exhibitions until 1940. He exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 1924, 1940, and 1942.

His controlled sensitivity is combined with a supreme asceticism of the spirit, which makes him unique in the artistic landscape of the time. Reason prevails in his paintings, determining a special relationship between drawing and color. The nude woman in his paintings appears as a symbol of love, rather than desire, as a meditation on destiny. In his still lifes, objects come to life, appearing to have a formidable spiritual beauty.

In 1956, the year he died, he was awarded the title of Emeritus Master of Art, and the retrospective exhibition "Theodor Pallady" was organized. In 2012, he was posthumously declared a member of the Romanian Academy.

Without a doubt, he remains one of Romania's most prestigious modern artists, a painter "of all times," as he liked to be called, and he lived his whole life like an aristocrat, taking refuge in art, which he considered a necessity, not a skill.



TONY BULANDRA

He was born in Targoviste on March 13, 1881. After watching some shows at the National Theatre in Bucharest, he decides to become an actor, despite opposition from his family, especially his father, a bourgeois who opposed his son becoming an actor and insisted that he pursue a military career. However, he enrolls and is accepted at the Conservatory of Music and Declamation in Bucharest, where he has Constantin Nottara as his teacher.

He continues his studies in Paris in 1902, where he attends various courses at the Conservatory for two years. He is invited to perform on various stages, but his patriotism and love for his country will determine him to return. With the leadership of Alexandru Davila, young actors like Tony Bulandra, Lucia Sturdza-Bulandra, Maria Giurgea, Ion Manolescu, and Marioara Voiculescu paved the way for theatrical glory.

The critics of the time, who were present at all the shows in which Tony Bulandra performed, praised him, writing that he was a rational, intelligent, charismatic, and pleasant actor "with a warm, well-toned, and powerful voice."

In 1909, he founded the Bulandra Company, the first theater company with a very well-crafted repertoire according to the rules of common sense, and chose mainly classical texts. In his performance, he was natural in attitude, had sincerity in conceiving the role, was lucid, and receptive to the other participants in the creative act.

He played alongside actress Lucia Sturdza-Bulandra in the first dramatic film, "Fatal Love," in 1911, and immediately after the filming of the movie, they got married. In the years 1916-1918, he volunteered as an officer in Iasi and, together with Ion Manolescu and Maria Ventura, directed several shows to raise funds for the aid of war casualties.

Tony Bulandra fell ill and later passed away in 1943, leaving behind an unforgettable memory of a great actor!

SMARANDA GHEORGHIU

Smaranda Gheorghiu - the first woman from Romania to travel to the North Pole, was born on October 5, 1857 in Târgoviște. She was a writer, journalist, and active feminist in her time, as well as a member of several cultural societies.

Smaranda Gheorghiu led a literary circle frequented by Mihai Eminescu and was friends with Veronica Micle, who would call her "Maica Smara" as a sign of admiration and respect.

In 1888, she published her first volume of poems, "Din pana suferinței", followed by other volumes of poetry, prose, and theater.

As a representative of Romania, she participated in several international congresses, including the Congress of Orientalists (1889) alongside Badea Cârțan, where she celebrated the Romanian spirit by laying a bronze laurel wreath at Trajan's Column; the Congress of Universal Peace (1900) held in Paris, where she proposed a solution for ending war; the Latin Congress (1902) where she supported the Romanian cause; the Congress of Family Education (1913); and the Congress of Outdoor Schools (1931).

For her promotion of Romanian culture, she was appointed "Educator of the People."

Her passion was travel. She traveled extensively throughout Romania and many European countries, and in 1904, she embarked on an expedition to the North Cape.

In her memory, a bust was erected in Mitropoliei Park in Târgoviște, bearing her full name, Smaranda Gheorghiu. Another bust of her can be found in Cișmigiu Park in Bucharest, with the inscription "Maica Smara Educator of the people, writer, 1857-1944," as a reminder that she wrote literature for children and youth, with an emphasis on the educational aspect of this literature.

ȘTEFANIA MĂRĂCINEANU

Stefania Maracineanu is one of Romania's and the world's great physicists! She was born on June 18, 1882 in Bucharest, attended Normal School, the Central School for Girls, and the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Bucharest. She became a substitute teacher and then, thanks to a scholarship, she went to the Institut du radium in Paris with Marie Curie in 1922. She defended her doctorate at the Sorbonne in 1924 on the topic of artificial radioactivity, a phenomenon she discovered. She returned to Bucharest in 1930 and created Romania's first radioactivity laboratory with her own resources. She discovered artificial rain and made an extraordinary discovery in the field of earthquake production. In December 10, 1935, the Nobel Prize was awarded to Frederique Joliot-Curie and Irene Curie for the discovery of artificial radioactivity, without taking into account the fact that the true discoverer was the Romanian Stefania Maracineanu. She was admitted as a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy in 1937. She died at the age of 62 on August 15, 1944 due to cancer caused by prolonged exposure to radiation. As a final injustice, in 2013, on World Intellectual Property Day, Romfilatelia issued a stamp bearing the name of Stefania Maracineanu and the image of Marie Curie, an error that has never been corrected. For us, Stefania Maracineanu is one of the phenomenal women of this earth, the rightful discoverer of artificial radioactivity and artificial rain, a Romanian scientist whose rights and global recognition were denied, and whose career was hindered, especially by Romanian authorities. She deserves at least our recognition, love, and pride as Romanians today!

ELENA VĂCĂRESCU

She was born in Bucharest on October 3, 1864, into a very old and famous family of boyars. She is a poet, prose writer, and playwright. She receives a distinguished education and then leaves for Paris where she attends courses in philosophy, aesthetics, and history at the Sorbonne University.

The year 1888 will change her life. Returning to the country with her spirit imbued with Western culture and with the hope of rediscovering the Romanian village and the forest of Văcărești, she is invited by Queen Elisabeth (Carmen Sylva) to the palace to be part of her suite as a lady-in-waiting. In 1889, she published the volume "Rhapsody of the Dâmbovița," a collection of folk songs collected by her and translated into German by the queen, which would ensure her European fame thanks to successive appearances in various countries.

As a close friend of the queen and the royal family, Elena meets Ferdinand, the heir to the Crown. A romantic love blossoms between the two young people, encouraged by the queen, whose affection for her lady-in-waiting is growing. The two young people become secretly engaged. However, according to the customs of the royal family, the engagement is considered a misalliance, and Elena Văcărescu is exiled, while Prince Ferdinand is sent to Germany.

Elena Văcărescu settles in Paris, publishes numerous volumes of poetry, prose, collections of Romanian folk literature translated into French, the memoir "Kings and Queens I Have Known." She opens a literary salon through which she begins her ascent in the French cultural environment. Her literary salon is frequented by famous names such as Victor Hugo, Anatole France, and Leconte de Lisle.

During the First World War, Elena Văcărescu made diplomatic efforts to support the idea of the Great Union, and in 1919, she was appointed by King Ferdinand as the General Secretary of the Romanian Association at the League of Nations for a period of twenty years.

Her cultural activity was recognized by her admission to the Romanian Academy in 1925, being the first woman in Romania to benefit from this title, and two years later, the President of France awarded her the Legion of Honor.

She died in Paris on February 17, 1947, and was buried in the Văcărești family crypt in the Bellu cemetery. She left the majority of the Văcărești family's wealth to the Romanian Academy through her will. About her and her love for the country, it was said at the time: Elena Văcărescu brought the Romanian soul to Paris! Elena Văcărescu is an ambassador of the Romanian soul, said Nicolae Iorga!

ELISA LEONIDA ZAMFIRESCU

Elisa Leonida Zamfirescu, the first female engineer in Romania, in Europe, and the second in the world. Elisa Leonida was born in Galați on November 10, 1887, into a family of 11 children, all of whom pursued an intellectual career. She attended primary school in Galați and high school at the Central School for Girls in Bucharest.

After finishing high school, she enrolled at the School of Bridges and Roads in Bucharest (today's Politehnica), but was rejected due to the prejudices of the time, which denied women the right to pursue such a college. In 1909, she went to Berlin and enrolled at the Royal Technical Academy of Berlin, which she graduated from with flying colors. She refused BASF's offer to stay in Germany, returned to Romania where she was offered an engineering position at the Geological Institute Laboratory in Bucharest.

She participated in World War I as part of the Red Cross, leading several field hospitals at Mărășești, and was decorated with Romanian and foreign orders and medals.

After the war, she returned to the Geological Institute, where she had a remarkable scientific activity. In parallel, she also worked as a physics and chemistry teacher at the "Pitar Moș" School for Girls and at the School for Electricians and Mechanics in Bucharest, led by her brother Dimitrie.

She was also active in diplomacy and was the first female member of the Romanian Engineers Association and a member of the International Association of University Women. She passed away on November 25, 1973, while listening to a Mozart concert.

ELENA CARAGIANI – STOIENESCU

Elena Caragiani-Stoienescu - the first female aviator in Romania, one of the first women in Romania to obtain a degree in law, and the world's first war correspondent from an airplane.

She was born on May 13, 1887, in Tecuci. Following her parents' wishes, she attended law school and became the first female lawyer in Romania. She was admitted to the Bar Association in Bucharest, but her right to practice law was revoked by the higher authorities on the grounds that a woman could not be a lawyer.

She was passionate about flying and took her first lessons from Andrei Popovici, her brother-in-law at the time, who was the 11th aviator in Romania. She enrolled in the National Aeronautical League Flight School at Baneasa, led by Prince George Bibescu, but could not obtain her pilot's license because Romanian officials could not tolerate a woman becoming equal to men in this new and exciting field. She went to France, where she received her pilot's license. She worked as a war reporter for a French newspaper, flew in the Caribbean, Mexico, South America, and was cheered upon her arrival in New York. In 1916, she returned to Romania hoping to be of use to the country, but was once again rejected. However, she made dozens of flights transporting wounded soldiers and saved hundreds of lives. This was the first step in establishing Romanian medical aviation.

Her entire life was marked by great aspirations, a love of flight and country, and the unequal struggle against the prejudices of a society that placed women only in the domestic or social sphere.

At the age of 42, she contracted tuberculosis and returned from Paris to die at home on March 27, 1929.

A woman of rare beauty and fragility, she hid behind her appearance a courage and determination of a hero!

MARTHA BIBESCU

On January 28, 1886, in Bucharest, Martha Bibescu was born, a politician, novelist, poet, essayist, and memoirist of Romanian and French expression, one of the most remarkable personalities of the European aristocracy of the 20th century. At barely 19 years old, with dispensation from the Vatican, Martha, being Catholic, married Prince George Valentin Bibescu, the nephew of George Bibescu, the ruler who abdicated in 1848, thus becoming Princess Martha Bibescu. Together with her husband, she visited Egypt and Persia. As a result of these travels, Martha Bibescu gave life, in 1908, to her first book, "Les Huit Paradis"/"The Eight Paradises," a volume that was awarded by the French Academy and propelled the princess into the ranks of the most appreciated writers of her time. During World War I, although the capital was under German occupation, she decided to remain in Bucharest, where she led a hospital that cared for war victims. In 1954, the French Academy awarded her the Grand Prize for Literature for her entire body of work, and in 1955, she became a member of the Royal Academy of French Language and Literature in Brussels. In 1962, she received the Legion of Honor from the French state, and in 1963, she was appointed adviser to French President Charles de Gaulle on the Romanian issue, a public recognition of her unquestionable efforts for her native country. Martha Bibescu died on November 28, 1973, at the age of 87, and was buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. She left the stage with dignity, leaving behind a body of work of over 30 volumes and the image of a woman who wrote and lived history.

GRIGORE ANTIPA

Grigore Antipa, born on November 27th, 1867 in Botoșani, Romania, was a Romanian naturalist, Darwinian biologist, zoologist, ichthyologist, ecologist, oceanologist, and university professor. He studied at the University of Jena (Germany) with the famous naturalist Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919), the inventor of ecology. He continued his scientific research in France and Italy.

He is the scholar who reorganized the National Museum of Natural History in the new building that now bears his name, built in 1906 and inaugurated by King Carol I of Romania in 1908, and was its director from 1892 to 1944. His museum principles and innovations regarding the organization of this museum, the mode of exhibition, arrangement and explanation of collections, aroused the interest of foreign specialists who requested a work from him on the organization of natural history museums. This was published in 1934 under the title "Principles and Means for the Reorganization of Natural History Museums". Starting from the reorganization of the Bucharest museum, in 1907 the first biological dioramas appeared, which represented a new stage in the evolution and organization of natural history museums. The first dioramas presented life on the peaks of the Carpathian Mountains, in the hilly region, in the Bărăgan region, as well as in the flooded area of the Danube Delta.

With the support of Kings Carol I and Ferdinand, Grigore Antipa devised a plan for the rational exploitation of the fisheries in the floodplain and delta of the Danube, and in the limans (the Basarabia and Dobrogea limans to the north and south of the Danube estuary). This plan doubled the fish and black caviar production in ten years, without destroying the environments and especially the breeding grounds of the fish. The cooperative fisheries improved the situation of the fishermen, so the Antipa system, very advanced for its time, was taken over by the communist regime in 1947 and developed until the 1960s.

Emil Racoviță said about the great scholar that the most important thing in his being was the feeling of love for his country. Grigore Antipa passed away on March 9th, 1944.

VICTOR BABEŞ

Victor Babeş, the founder of the Romanian School of Microbiology, was born on July 4 (28), 1854, in Vienna. He studied medicine in Budapest and Vienna, and began his career as an assistant in the Pathological Anatomy laboratory in Budapest. He became a doctor-docent (associate professor) and professor of histopathology at the Faculty of Medicine in Budapest.

At the age of 30, he was accepted as an assistant in the laboratory of the great French scientist Victor Cornil, with whom he elaborated the world's first treatise on bacteriology. In 1887, Victor Babeş was called back to Romania as a professor of Pathological Anatomy and Bacteriology at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest. In the same year, on April 28, he founded the Institute of Pathology and Bacteriology in Bucharest, the oldest medical scientific institute in Romania, which bears his name today.

Victor Babeş made extremely important contributions, of worldwide renown, to the study of rabies, leprosy, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. He invented an original method of antirabic immunization (associated treatment: vaccine and antirabic serum), known worldwide as the "Romanian method of antirabic treatment."

Victor Babeş fought for the application of scientific achievements in order to improve people's lives. He studied the causes of mass diseases (pellagra, tuberculosis), drawing attention to their social roots. In 1888, Babeş founded the principle of passive immunity, and a few years later, he enunciated the principle of antibiotics, both discoveries being reasons to obtain a Nobel Prize. Unfortunately, his establishment in Bucharest somewhat distanced him from the major decisions regarding the recognition of scientific merits. Babeş missed the Nobel Prize, but Romania gained a scientist, an institution, and a school, all bearing the name of the most illustrious representative of Romanian medical science.

ANGHEL SALIGNY

Anghel I. Saligny (born on April 19, 1854, in Șerbănești, Galați county), an academician, civil engineer, minister, and Romanian educator, is considered one of the pioneers of global engineering in designing and constructing bridges and metal or reinforced concrete silos, and one of the founders of Romanian engineering.

Anghel Saligny was a remarkable civil engineer, a worldwide precursor of metal and reinforced concrete construction science, inventor of multiple inventions and unique solutions in designing and constructing bridges and industrial buildings, for the foundation of port quays and docks, as well as wheat silos using prefabricated concrete, all world premieres.

Unsatisfied with the offers presented by foreign companies, both the Tender Adjudication Commission, made up of Romanian and foreign specialists, and the General Directorate of Romanian Railways decided to entrust the difficult task of building the bridge at Cernavodă to Romanian engineer Anghel Saligny and his collaborators.

On October 21, 1890, in the presence of King Carol I, the works for the new bridge began. Just five years after the start of the works, on September 14, 1895, in the presence of the king, the bridge was inaugurated. The largest in Europe at that time, it remains the most important symbol of Romanian engineering from the beginning period, passing its maturity exam with the brilliance of its century of existence and uninterrupted operation.

