

## **AN ATTEMPT AT HISTORICALLY OUTLINING THE TOWNS OF THE JIU VALLEY**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Jiu Valley was the location of a rural world, whose concern was to develop a forest and pastoral economy, which could fit the characteristics of the mountainous region where the Jiu Rivers sprang. The industrial revolution that enters the Transylvanian territory in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was going to determine the need of primary sources of energy, so that coal and the Jiu Valley, implicitly, where a 2.1 billion tons estimated deposit of brown and pit coal exists, were going to enter the attention of the social and economic processes during the following 150 years. Coal industrial exploitation in the Jiu Valley, started by the '60s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and still carried on today, determined the radical change of the social, economic and cultural features of the region. Consequently, our analysis attempts at displaying both the manner the six towns of the present-day Jiu Valley came out and their evolution.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Jiu Valley, Hunedoara County, mining towns, Petroșani, Petrila, Aninoasa, Vulcan, Lupeni, Uricani.*

**JEL CLASIFICATION:** *N90.*

### **1. PETROȘANI**

**PETROȘANI** (municipality; in Hungarian: *Petrozsény, Petrosény*, in German: *Petroschen*; 1992: 52,390 inhabitants, 2002: 45,194 inhabitants, October 2011: 37,160 inhabitants). Until around World War II, the settlement was called according to its Romanian appellation: *Petroșeni*. In 1933, Sebastian Stanca said that “the village was always called *Petroșeni* from its beginnings”. That appellation, also matching ethymology rules, was preserved until today by the daily language of the native population of the Jiu Valley and the whole Hațeg County. In 1920, when mining exploitation passed to the Romanians, “Petroșani” Shareholding Company was founded and the authorities also gave the settlement the appellation of Petroșani. That

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name might have been justified in case the settlement had as its origin the name of a certain individual called Petrosan, whose enlarged family came to give its name to the whole village. Nonetheless, the circumstances were different, as the village was established by the colonists of Petros. Accordingly, the appellation of “Petroșeni” appears to be fully logical and right.

The contemporary settlement, displaying a surface of 19,556 ha, and including the villages of: Slătinoara, Peștera Bolii, Dâlja Mare and Dâlja Mică, developed at the confluence of the Eastern Jiu and Western Jiu, at an altitude of 615 – 620 m, being limited in its Eastern part by Parâng Mountains, in its Western part by Godeanu Mountains, in the North by Retezat Mountains and in the South by Vâlcan mountains.

There are different opinions that concern the foundation of the settlement. Accordingly, Sebastian Stanca considers that the settlement of Petroșani was created at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A 1640 donation act shows that the family of a serf called Bolia used to live in the area of present-day Petroșani, while the owners of the land were two families, Marzsinai or Mărginean and Kerestesy, who descended from Căndea family in the Hateg County, and were separated by the brooks of Maleia and Dâlja. Iacob Radu supported the idea that the village was initially founded in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, owing to the settlement of the inhabitants of Petros (village of Baru, at the border between Hațeg County and Jiu Valley), while, Josephine map, drawn out between 1769 and 1773 displayed it as *Pietrosény*.

In the case we accept that the settlement called *Petrosan*, comprising a population of 379 individuals and mentioned by the Conscription carried out between 1784 and 1787, was the core of the present-day municipality of Petroșani, then, in our opinion, that represents the first official mentioning of the settlement; the 1818 conscription also referred to the settlement of Petroșani, which included 223 inhabitants, while the village of Maleia comprised 58 inhabitants, and the village of Dalja 89 inhabitants; in 1854, Petroșani (*Petrosény*, *Petroșeni*), which together with the villages of Dâlja and Maleia had 518 inhabitants, was also mentioned among the 11 settlements that entered the census.

People believe that the appellation of *Petroșani* used to define, by 1800, the settlement that was founded around the wooden church existing at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, owing to the fact that the other groves were called either according to the names of the families that inhabited them: Boțoni = Bota etc., or according to their location: Rătundul = Maleia towards Livezeni, or according to a river: Roșia, after brook Roșia etc.

Beginning with the ‘70s – ‘80s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the nowadays municipality of Petroșani became the most important settlement as well as the centre of the region located within the intra-mountainous depression, generically called Jiu Valley.

That happened at a moment when, after mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, coal industrial exploitation in the Jiu Valley was initiated and the region entered its modern development stage, owing to the changes determined by the industrial revolution.

The whole process included: the development of an industrial complex, mainly including mining exploitations; the development of a built area that would result in a settlement displaying urban characteristics; the rapid population growth in the area,

less through a natural increase, but especially owing to a migration phenomenon, specific for the Jiu Valley, until the '90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The development of the settlement accelerated with the opening of the first mines, and the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov brought its contribution, besides the State, to the initiation of industrial mining in the coal basin of the Jiu Valley.

The following mines were opened at Petroșani by the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov: Petroșani East (1867-1868); Petroșani West (1869); Dâlja (1890); coal separation units were built at: Petroșani North, belonging to the State; Petroșani East and Petroșani West, belonging to "Salgótárján" Company, which was the Jiu Valley successor of the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov, beginning with year 1985; in 1894, they built the electrical plant, required both by industry and in order to light up the town and the houses; in 1909 they built the Central Workshops of Petroșani. The industrial process was also supported by the construction of Simeria – Petroșani railroad, inaugurated on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1870.

Industrial and public buildings as well as dwelling houses accompanied the industrial start-up. In Petroșani, around the present-day Victory Place, which until after World War II was the location of the food market, the first buildings were constructed around 1869. They built first a series of larger barracks selling food, beverages, colonial products, manufactured products, and clothes; Arpad Barcsay started the construction of a building, initially used as a hotel, which later became the Town Hall of the settlement, until the beginning of the '30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

They began the construction of groups of specific dwelling houses, generically called *colonies*, which were initially built of beams or unfired bricks to be later turned into solid houses, including two apartments or barrack-type houses.

The Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov built in 1868 the house of the mines' administrator, in the area of the mine located in Petroșani East. A colony came out there, mainly for the workers from Check Republic, which they baptized "Prague". In 1869, they started building the Lower Colony, located between Simeria - Petroșani railroad and Eastern Jiu, including 41 houses, which initially grew out around the present-day building of offices behind Petroșani railroad station. The restaurant and the casino of the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov were also built there, while the State initiated the construction of Livezeni colony, towards Livezeni, during the same period.

After 1871, in the northern part of the town, the Upper Colony was built, including 52 dwelling houses; after 1879, the hospital of the Company in Brasov merged with the hospital belonging to the State's Mines, while the older hospital was turned into a casino for clerks. They also built Ferro Colony on the hill between Petroșani and Petrila, Bosnia Colony, around the Western Mine, and Maleia Colony, all constructed by the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov.

New dwelling houses were built in the Lower and Upper Colonies, in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, while in 1909 Ianza Colony – the first colony built by a private person – was constructed.

The settlement gradually acquired urban characteristics. Besides the providing of electrical energy and the construction of the aqueduct system for the water

supplying of the public buildings, of a series of houses, and the fountains located at crossroads in the town's colonies, the main streets were covered with asphalt or stone.

Meanwhile, apart from the colony houses and the ones built by private persons, apart from the systematization of the main street – where the town's most important shops, restaurants, and hotels were located, and which preserved that characteristic until the end of the '80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – a series of public economic, administrative, and cultural buildings came out, until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, owing to the contribution of the State, of the mining companies and private initiative: the hospital – the first one built between 1877 and 1878, the new one in 1912, improved in 1939 and demolished in the '90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, after having built, in 1977, the present-day Emergency Hospital, including 700 beds; the building of the Post Office (1901); the Boys' High School (1904; the present-day Sports School); between 1893 and 1894, they built the imposing construction of the monastery of Franciscan nuns, who came from Germany, between 1886 and 1899 in order to accomplish their didactic mission and to take care of the hospital's patients; in 1905, the town hall was built, while in 1910, they constructed the Law Court; in 1911, the building of the Storage House of Petroșani; in 1913, the building of the Fiscal Administration; in 1905, the Casino of the senior officials of "Salgótárján" Company, which is the present-day location of "Ion D. Sîrbu" Dramatic Theatre; besides the old Orthodox church in Boțoni, built in 1795, they also constructed: the Roman-Catholic Church (1886-1887) and the imposing edifice of the Parish House (1890), the Greek-Catholic Church towards Livezeni (1888), the Reformed Church (1888), Saint Nicolas Orthodox Church (1900), the Lutheran Church (1896), the Synagogue (1912), etc.

New public buildings were also built during the interwar period. Accordingly, in 1923, "Petroșani" Mining Company founded the Children Hospital called "Prince Mircea" (the present-day Students' Cultural Centre), and, in 1925, it built the Lower Colony, the Workers' Casino and the Public Baths. Later on, in 1929, they established the foundations of the location and typography of "Jiul Cultural" Society, while the imposing building of the Palace of Social Insurances Agency – the former polyclinic – was built between 1930 and 1931; on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1937, they found the Administrative Palace in the old part of the town. New churches were built between 1924 and 1928: the Unitarian Church, the Greek-Catholic Church (Orthodox, today), near the bridge over Maleia river, was constructed between 1936 and 1940 and sanctified on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944, while, in the southern part, towards Livezeni, they built, between 1930 and 1940, the Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Elena.

It was a significant building endeavour and, while in 1857 Petroșani together with Livezeni village – nowadays included into Petroșani – comprised 405 houses, of which 245 houses were located in Livezeni, in 1941, Petroșani alone had 2,308 buildings, which represented 23.22 % of the total number of the buildings existing in the Jiu Valley.

Beginning with the '50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as they witnessed the increase of extractive activities, the development of administrative and cultural activities, and, implicitly, population's growth, the town of Petroșani entered a new era of its development. During the '50s and '60s, they built the blocks that were part of "Carpați" ("Carpathians") neighbourhood, while in the '60s, until the '90s, the blocks in

“Aeroport” (“Airport”) neighbourhood were built, so that the town extended towards South, occupying a large area of Livezeni village; in the ‘70s, they built the blocks that form the residential group around the present-day Town Hall, and between the ‘70s and ‘80s, a part of the blocks located between the food market and “Carpați” neighbourhood was built; mid-‘80s saw the re-building, through the demolition of the old constructions and the building of new blocks, of the whole northern part of the town, an area where the modern settlement of today had its roots. Consequently, we may assert that the part played by the State and the large mining companies was a decisive one in gradually changing the settlement and turning it from a village of the native inhabitants called “momârlani” into the urban, powerfully industrialized area of today. Accordingly, in 2010, among the 42,522 inhabitants, 14, 231 were employed and the town displayed 18,157 dwelling houses; there were 133 km of roads, of which 69 km were modernized roads, and 103 km of drinking water network, etc.

The hereby path had been decisively determined by the development of the industrial activity and mainly by coal mining. Beginning with January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1921, they founded “Petroșani” Company that took over all the assets owned by “Salgôtarján” Company and that maintained the activity of the mines until the economic crisis of 1929-1933: Petroșani West, closed in 1928, Dâlja, closed in 1931, and Petroșani East, which, beginning with year 1939 became a subsidiary of the Mine of Petrila. “Petroșani” Company, which in 1931 also incorporated the assets of “Lupeni” Mining Company, subsequently became the largest Romanian mining company, after increasing its capital; on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948 it was nationalized and its assets became the property of the State. Mining activity was resumed owing to the re-opening of the Mine of Dâlja, in 1960, (which was later closed again, in 2003), to the re-opening of the Mine of Livezeni in 1967, and of the Coal Preparation Unit of Livezeni (1987-1997); the activity of the former Central Workshops of Petroșani increased as they were turned, after World War II, into the Mining Equipment Company, which, unfortunately, ceased its activity.

The following units were founded in order to cope with the research and planning requirements, mainly for the mining industry and for other economic branches: the Station for Mining Security Trials (1949) – the Research Station for Mining Security (1965); the Research Centre for Mining Security (1973); the Research, Technological Engineering, and Planning Centre for Mining Security (1986); the Institute for Mining Security (1990); the National Institute for Mining Security and Anti-Explosive Protection (1992), which in 2006 was turned into the National Research and Development Institute for Mining Security and Anti-Explosive Protection; the Institute for Mining Research and Planning of Petroșani (1955).

As an acknowledgement of the important economic role of the Jiu Valley within Romanian economy, in general, and in the coal mining, in particular, owing to the educational reform on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1948 and the Decision of the Minister of Public Education concerning the organization of higher education, dated October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1948, on December the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1948, they initiated the courses of the Coal Institute in Petroșani – beginning with 1957, it was turned into the Mine Institute, while in 1995, it became the University of Petroșani – which, during 65 years of experience educated over 30,000 higher education specialists, mainly trained for the mining industry; after 1990, such

specialists began to be trained for other fields of productive activity, scientific research, education, and public administration, too.

They gradually founded cultural institutions and built edifices where such activities were carried out. Accordingly, besides the Casino of the senior officials of "Salgótárján" Company, built in 1905, on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1908, the building of "Urania" cinema was inaugurated in a construction started at the beginning of the '80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; another cinema was opened in 1913 in "Apollo" Hall, the ceremony room of the Town Hall, while in 1925 a cinema was opened at the Workers' Casino, too. After World War II, three cinemas were built, which were still functional at the end of the '80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: "7 Noiembrie" Cinema, "Unirea" Cinema in Aeroport neighbourhood, and "Parâng" Cinema, near the Trade Unions' Cultural Centre, an institution opened in June 1966.

The most important cultural institution of the town was "Ion D. Sîrbu" Dramatic Theatre, inaugurated as the "People's Theatre", Valea Jiului branch, on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1948, when they played "A Lost Letter" by I. L. Caragiale. The theatre went on functioning between 1949 and 1991, when it changes its appellation and became "Ion D. Sîrbu" Dramatic Theatre; it functioned as the "Valea Jiului" State Theatre in the building of the Workers' Casino, inaugurated in 1925, displaying a 400-seats hall; in 1981, the theatre moved to the improved building, including a modern hall, of the former Casino of the senior officials of "Salgótárján"/"Petroșani" Company, a building that was mainly used, after World War II, as an entertainment hall.

There is a Mining Museum, which, at the moment it was opened, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1967, was the only mining museum in Romania.

The structure of educational units was also important for the development of the town, for the support of its economic, social, and cultural activities.

Several schools were opened in Petroșani, long before World War I: the Orthodox Religious School, founded in 1867; the German teaching (until 1870) Company's school, turned into a Hungarian teaching school (until the Union), which was founded in 1870, by the Company of Brasov and continued by "Salgótárján" Company; the Hungarian teaching State School, founded in 1872; the communal school, functioning between 1912 and 1914, also in Hungarian; Girls' Secondary Religious Roman Catholic School, founded around 1893 and administered by the Franciscan nuns.

By the care of the urban village and the support of the Mining Company, in 1886, they founded at Petroșani a German private gymnasium, which functioned until 1889. In 1894, they created a gymnasium, which later turned into the Boys' High School of Petroșani. That private gymnasium became during school year 1897-1898 a communal gymnasium, while during school year 1901-1902 it was turned into a public school; during school year 1905-1906, and the approval of starting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, it became a high school. The high school started to be administered by the State beginning with school year 1906-1907, while during school year 1908-1909, when the first students graduated it, there were eight grades including 292 ordinary and private students, of which 71 (24.31 %) were Romanians; let's also mention the fact that on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1904, the gymnasium moved to its new location, built owing to the State's

funds as well as owing to the support of the village and a series of private persons. The well-known building of the High School – today, the location of the Sports School – included 16 halls: 4 classrooms, a gym hall, a drawing hall, a library, chemistry and natural sciences labs, the housekeeper's room, etc.

Technical education also developed, so that between 1905 and 1919 a Coal Mining School functioned in order to train inferior technical staff; beginning with August the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920, the Foremen School was inaugurated with a view to training mining and electro-mechanical foremen required by the activity of the Jiu Valley and the other mining basins, especially in Transylvania.

During the inter-war period, a well-grounded educational system used to function that matched the requirements of the time: during school year 1927-1928, Petroșani comprised, besides the Boys' High School and the Mining Foremen School, Girls' Secondary State School, which became the Girls' Industrial Gymnasium, in 1936; Girls' Secondary (civil) Roman-Catholic School and Boys' Secondary Roman-Catholic School, as well as elementary schools: five State Romanian teaching elementary schools; two religious Roman-Catholic schools and a Hungarian teaching Reformed confessional school; as well as a German teaching Lutheran Evangelical confessional school.

After World War II, the system of schools grew wider. We have already showed that, beginning with 1948, the present-day University began its existence, while the activity of the Mining Foremen School and of the Boys' High School, subsequently turned into the Theoretical High School, went on. Between 1948 and 1952, a Trade Vocational School was operational, the predecessor of the present-day "Hermes" Economic College, which was founded in 1962. In 1966, they established the first industrial high school, which, in 1971, merged with the Vocational School and formed the nowadays Technical College called "Dimitrie Leonida". In June 1977, the Theoretical High School in Petroșani was changed into the Mathematics and Physics High School, which further became, after 1990, the Informatics High School; in 1993, they laid the foundations of the Theoretical High School, which is the present-day "Mihai Eminescu" National College. Besides these high schools and higher education units, Petroșani comprises today five kindergartens, five secondary schools, and a primary school.

Apart from the institutions that define and differentiate Petroșani among the other urban areas of the Jiu Valley, the town increased demographically from 1,728 inhabitants, in 1870, to 7,752 inhabitants, in 1900, to 12,183 inhabitants, in 1910, to 15,405 inhabitants in 1930, to 40,684 inhabitants, in 1977, and to 52,390 inhabitants in 1992. Meanwhile, population's increase, until the '90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, specific to all the urban areas of the Jiu Valley, was less the result of natural increase, but mostly the result of a migratory growth; the coming in of people displaying different ethnicities and religious convictions determined an environment characterized by multi-ethnicity and multiculturalism. The data of the census on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930 show that, at least 16 languages were spoken and 12 religious denominations existed, at the time, in Petroșani, while the 2002 census registered the following data: 40,407 Romanians, 3,815 Hungarians, 528 Gypsies, 275 Germans, 25 Jews, 22 Italians, 19

Slovakians, 17 Ukrainians, 16 Poles, 12 Czechs, as well as 59 persons belonging to other ethnic groups.

Owing to its political, administrative, economic, and cultural role, Petroșani gradually became the most important settlement, a de facto capital of the Jiu Valley.

Sebastian Stanca mentioned that, already in 1861, each village of the Jiu Valley had its own administration, comprising the judge or the mayor of the village and two jurors or “plăieși” (border guards) for each village. The Town Hall of Petroșani was administered, until 1879, by the native peasants, while between 1879 and 1885, two mayors exerted the leadership: one for the peasants and the other for the foreigners having settled there, the last one having been dictated by the Mining Company; beginning with 1885, a sole mayor, agreed upon by the Mining Company, administered Petroșani.

As far as its statute is concerned, Petroșani became an urban village as early as 1898. After the 1918 Union, Petroșani became a town, according to the decision of the Council of Ministers, dated January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1924.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1923, the communal representatives expressed their vote upon the demand drawn out by Gheorghe Tătărescu, a lawyer of “Petroșani” Mining Company, and signed by “Petroșani” Company, the Bank of Petroșani, “Jiul Cultural” Society, the leaders of the trade and cultural milieu, and the representatives of the guilds, concerning the turning of the village of Petroșani into a town, according to article 22<sup>nd</sup> of the 1886 Communal Law.

Owing to that request, on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1924, Decision no. 0468 of the Council of Ministers was signed and the President of the Council of Ministers decided to declare the large village of Petroșani, Hunedoara County, a town with its own council; the decision was grounded upon the agreement of the representatives of Petroșani Village on the occasion of the meeting dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1923, having decided upon the change of the village into a town with its own council, owing to the fact that more than half of the inhabitants of the village, paying the highest taxes, agreed on that change, to the fact that the village owns the incomes required in order to cope with the expenditures determined by the law concerning the towns displaying their own councils, and to the fact that it included the required number of inhabitants in order to become a town.

The settlement maintained its statute of a regional town after the administrative re-organization in 1950, being a county capital the manner it was a district capital, beginning with the ‘70s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

According to Law no. 2, dated February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1968, regarding the administrative organization of Romanian territory, republished in 1981, the town of Petroșani became a municipality. An administrative structure, called Petroșani Municipality, was then created, including besides the municipal town of Petroșani, the following towns: Lupeni, Vulcan, Petrila, Uricani, and the suburban villages of Aninoasa and Bănița; The structure went on functioning until after December 1989, being abolished through the disposals of article 2 of the Decree-Law no. 38, dated January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1990.



## 2. LUPENI

**LUPENI** (municipality; in Hungarian: *Lupény*; in German: *Schylwolfsbach*; 1992: 32,853 inhabitants, 2002: 30,642 inhabitants, October 2011: 23,390 inhabitants).

The settlement, covering an area of 7,470 ha (9.268 ha in 1966) is located in the Western part of Petroșani Depression and developed on both banks of Western Jiu, along about 7 km, at an altitude that ranges between 675 m and 725 m; it is surrounded by the mountain peaks of Oboroaca, belonging to Retezat Mountains, towards North and North-West, and by Vâlcan Mountains towards South.

The town is connected with the rest of the Jiu Valley by DN 66A and by the Petroșani-Lupeni railroad, measuring 18 km, built between 1891 and 1892.

Beginning with 1941 the village became a town, which, between 1968 and 1990, was subordinated to the Municipality of Petroșani; on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003, according to Law no. 547, it was declared a municipality.

Lupeni, too, as the other Jiu Valley towns, was a shepherds village, founded, as Iacob Radu mentioned in 1913, “around 1770, through the migration of certain inhabitants from the village of Valea Lupului [Hațeg County] – hence the appellation of Lupeni – who settled there, in order to work their land on the Jiu River, rich in pastures and grasslands, more conveniently”. Later on, “they started the exploitation of the coal stones on the territory of Lupeni village, around 1879-80, which quickly and tremendously developed... Imposing equipments, the coke unit, the hospital, schools, the houses belonging to the staff and workers, built by the Company – “Uricani-Jiu Valley” (n.n) – comprising expenditures of billion Lei, then the shops, the bars, the workshops of the factory owners turn Lupeni into a prominent mining and industrial centre.”

In the Western part of the town, “Bărbăteni” neighbourhood is located; it was built during the ‘70s – ‘80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on the location of the former dwelling-place of Upper Bărbăteni. The settlement, which was also called Mârliasa, was built by those who came from Râu Bărbat/Hațeg County, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and included, in 1852, 60 families and 200 inhabitants. In 1951, it was a self-administered village, until 1951, when it was incorporated by the town of Lupeni; after the administrative re-organization of 1968, it disappeared as an entity, while, today, it is represented by a group of streets in the town of Lupeni.

Coal mining in the area of Lupeni developed owing to the rich deposit of coking coal displaying the highest calorific capacity in the whole basin of the Jiu Valley; the mine of Lupeni is still the most productive coal exploitation in the area; for instance, it produced, in 2005, 596,008 tons of coal, representing 19.98% of the Jiu Valley production.

A series of entrepreneurs were interested in investments in order to exploit the coal deposit in the area of Lupeni: for instance, Hoffmann Rafael sent, in 1886, samples of coal extracted from Lupeni area, to Germany, a fact that shows that the coal could be used for coking. Such enterprises played an important role in boosting the region’s mining.

The decisive moment was the foundation, in 1892, of the “Joint-Stock Hungarian Coal Mines Company Uricani – Jiu Valley” (“Uricani – Jiu Valley”

Company), owning a six million Crown capital, subscribed by the deputies in the Hungarian Parliament, capitalists in Budapest and the province, and a group of French capitalists, supported by the Hungarian Credit General Bank in Budapest.

The company succeeded to gain, until 1903, the whole mining perimeter of Lupeni that enabled it to administer the entire mining in the area.

In order to develop the mines of Lupeni, “Uricani – Jiu Valley” Company made important investments. They gradually carried out opening and preparation works allowing the opening of the following mines: *North, Ștefan, Victoria, Ileana, Carolina*, in the Northern part of the basin, as well as the mines: *South and Ella*, in the Southern part. Between the years 1892 and 1902, coal production came from the Northern and Southern mines, while, around 1900, it also came from Ștefan Mine; they subsequently developed the other mines.

Equipments for well transportation were introduced with a view to make the mining unit function; cable railways were installed, mainly for the coal transportation to the separation units; four separation units were built in order to improve coal quality, through selecting and eliminating shale; in 1900 the electrical plant nearby Ștefan separation unit was built; the plant was enlarged in the ‘20s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including four generators that produced 11,800 kWh; a central repairs workshop was also built, etc.

In 1899, “Uricani – Jiu Valley” Company founded the “Joint-Stock for Producing Coke at Uricani – Jiu Valley”, while in 1900, they built the Coke Plant, which used coal extracted mainly from Ștefan Mine and intermittently functioned, until 1925.

On January, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1925 the assets of “Uricani-Jiu Valley” Company in Lupeni were taken by the State, and “Lupeni” Mining Company was formed, which, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1931, was included into ‘Petroșani’ Mining Company. The Mine of Lupeni was part of those two mining companies, while in 1947 it was incorporated by “Petroșani” Romanian-Soviet Company; during the years 1949 and 1954 it was part of “Sovromcărbune” assets; beginning with 1954 up to the present days, it is the property of the Romanian State.

Coal exploitation was also done in the area of Bărbăteni. Ever since 1950, they began the exploitation of the mining field, which allowed, in 1965, owing to the Mine of Lupeni, the opening works. The Mine of Bărbăteni functioned as a unit of its own until October the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, when it became a part of Lupeni Mine, with a view to allow the closure of the existing mining works.

In order to capitalize the extracted coal, and due to the fact that the separation units could no more match the coal quality requirements, especially those of the Romanian Railroad Company, between 1929 and 1931, “Lupeni” Company built a modern preparation unit, able to process, through washing, 200 tons of coal per hour; its capacity increased to 300 tons per hour, after 1938. The preparation unit, which processed the coal extracted from the mines of Lupeni, Uricani, and Barbateni, functioned until 2003, when it was closed.

At the initiative of ‘Petroșani’ Company, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1936, “Vâscoza Românească” Company was built in Lupeni; the manufacture, which became functional on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1938, could produce artificial textile fibres that replaced silk,

cotton, and wool. “Vâscoza” Artificial Threads Manufacture, which ceased its activity in 1992, was, after Lupeni Mine, the most important unit of the industrial milieu of Lupeni and, during 55 years, it was a well-known industrial mark, providing a significant number of jobs, especially for the women in town; it employed an average number of 1,046 persons, during the period 1956-1979. In order to capitalize the production of “Vâscoza” Manufacture, between the years 1980-2003, they founded “TESMA” Silk Weaving Manufacture.

As it was the case of the other towns of the Jiu Valley, the existence of the native peasants (“Momarlani”), mainly concentrated in the area of the former settlement of Bărbăteni and the hills that surround the town, and of a structure of agriculture lands that included 116 ha of arable ground, 2,911 ha of pasture and grassland, 4,208 ha of forests, determined the maintaining of a complementary or subsistence forest and pasture activity, besides mining, chemical and textile industries, food industry (the mechanic mill built in 1926, which could grind over 1,000 kg of wheat per hour was replaced in 1985 by a modern mill, abandoned during the '90s), crafts (“Straja” Crafts Cooperative, built in 1950), etc.

Economic development came with a demographic growth, due partly to the natural increase, but mainly to migration: 864 inhabitants in 1890, before industrial mining started in Lupeni, and: 4,761 inhabitants in 1900, 8,028 inhabitants in 1910, 13,870 inhabitants in 1930, 29,367 inhabitants in 1966; people coming from the former Austrian and Hungarian Empire as well as people from all the areas of Romania settled there: already in 1910, Lupeni included: 2,145 Romanians, 3,630 Hungarians, 712 Germans, 68 Slovaks, 464 Ruthenians, 11 Croatians, 11 Serbians, and 991 of other nationalities.

They also developed built areas: “Uricani-Jiu Valley” Company, and, after World War I, “Lupeni” Company underwent important construction works determined by the need to stabilize the continually growing number of workers and to provide proper hygiene and sanitary conditions. At the beginning, families used to live in wooden houses, yet, they were demolished and replaced by a large number of brick houses that included 2 to 4 apartments, gathered in ten colonies: Central, Jiul, Officials’, Ștefan, Braia, Ella, Victoria, Carolina, Eastern, Ileana; a 1930 statistics shows that “Lupeni” Company owned 916 houses: 43 houses for its clerks, 75 for sub-officials, and 798 for workers; the houses hosted 2,366 families.

Besides houses, the Mining Company built or largely contributed to the building of a series of economic or social and cultural constructions. Accordingly, during the years 1924-1926, they built: the Cultural palace, the Community Home of Single Clerks (the present-day Town Hall), the building of the Town Hall and Post Office, the building of Police, public baths; they also concluded the regulation works of Western Jiu River, while between 1925 and 1926, they built the stadium and the swimming pool, which still exists, etc.

Beginning with 1950, they started building neighbourhoods of blocks, either instead the former colonies or through demolishing private houses. In 1953, the first blocks in “Vâscoza” neighbourhood were given to the beneficiaries, while during 1957-1958 they started the construction of the groups of blocks called Braia I and Braia II; during the period 1950-1967, they built 72 blocks of 4 and 10 floors, five

workers' hostels, and three commercial grounds. That building endeavour went on, so that at the end of the '70s – '80s, they built "Bărbăteni" neighbourhood; today, the Municipality of Lupeni displays 1,727 buildings and 11,498 dwelling houses.

In time, social, cultural, and educational institutions were founded as well as buildings that could host them.

The first Greek and Catholic Religious School came into functioning in 1840, in Upper Bărbăteni, while in Lupeni, the religious school functioned until 1889, joint with the one in the village of Paroşeni, when they started operating separately. "Uricani-Jiu Valley" Company supported the foundation, beginning with school year 1894-1895 of the present-day Secondary School No. 1 in Lupeni. During school year 1930-1931, Lupeni comprised three State schools, built by the Mining Companies, two private religious schools, and a Polish school.

During school year 1941-1942, they founded the "Mining Technical School", and during school year 1943-1944, "Technical Conductors School". The later one was replaced, beginning with September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1948, by the "Technical Secondary School", abolished in 1955, when the present-day Technological High School in Lupeni began functioning; on September the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953, the Mixed Secondary School, the present-day Theoretical High School in Lupeni, was opened. Today, besides these two high schools, there are three secondary schools and three kindergartens.

The mining companies looked for providing sanitary services for their employees.

We do not know exactly when the hospital of Lupeni was built, but we do know that the money coming from Bruderlade, including the contribution of both the workers and owners, allowed the construction, in 1896, of a bath where the patients of the hospital also could wash. In 1903, Lupeni had two hospitals: a hospital for regular patients, and, in an auxiliary building, a hospital for contagious patients; in 1903, they built in "Ştefan" colony, a modern construction, for that time, which had hosted, for a certain period of time, the hospital that displayed 40 beds and two wards: internal and surgery.

The Hospital of Lupeni was closed in 1932, while a dispensary including ten beds and a 20-bed ward for contagious patients still functioned; during the years 1939-1942, "Petroşani" Company built, for the benefit of the Central Office of Social Insurances, the present-day hospital of the town, which had two wards: internal and surgery, and 80 beds. Beginning with 1959, until the '90s, the maternity and paediatrics ward functioned in the building which had been built by the Mine of Lupeni for its sanitary services. The present-day hospital that gathers the wards and the polyclinic includes the building constructed between 1939 and 1942, as well as the new building finished in 2002.

They were also preoccupied to build constructions for the religious institutions existing in Lupeni. Accordingly, with the support of "Uricani-Jiu Valley" Company, they built, in 1900, the Roman-Catholic Church, and with the support of "Lupeni" Company, they built, in 1929, the Orthodox Church; the Greek-Catholic Church (1906-1908), Evangelical Church (1910); Reformed Church (1912) were also built, while, at Bărbăteni, they built, in 1880, the old, wooden Greek-Catholic Church; in 1936 they built the new church.

Cultural buildings were also constructed. Accordingly, in 1903, the Casino in the Officials' Colony was built; during the years 1924-1926, the Cultural Palace, including a 522-seat hall; while in 1964, they opened "Cultural" Cinema, including 501 seats. In the building initially hosting the School for Technical Conductors, the Union Trades' Workers Club functioned; it owned an important public library and halls for various cultural activities. At Barbateni, the Cultural Centre still functions, and until the '70s, a cultural club with a cinema, a library, and a conference hall, also operated.

The town of Lupeni is known today for its mountain resort in "Straja" mountains, which grew up from the old wooden chalet "Mutu"/"Straja", built at 1445 m altitude, in 1932, to the various chalets and villas built mainly after 1990.

### **3. VULCAN**

**VULCAN** (municipality; in Hungarian: *Zsilvajdejvulkán, Vulkány*; 1992: 34,524 inhabitants, 2002: 29,740 inhabitants; October 2011: 24,160 inhabitants).

The present-day settlement has a surface of 8,731 ha, is located at an altitude of 570-600 m, at the foothills of Retezat Mountains to the North and North-West, and Vâlcan, to the South; it is situated in the central part of the Western area of Petroșani Depression, crossed by Western Jiu River (Romanian Jiu), and its tributaries, brooks Morișoara and Crividia.

Vulcan Municipality also includes the settlements of Dealu Babii, located in the Northern part, on DJ 66 Vulcan-Merisor and Jiu-Paroseni, located on the Western part, on DN 66A. Vulcan comprised, until the administrative re-organization in 1968, the settlement of Jiu-Coroiești, located in the Eastern part, on DN 66A, which is now a district of the municipality.

The town is connected with the rest of the Jiu Valley by DN 66A – the construction of Petroșani-Vulcan road was finished in 1865 – and by Petroșani-Lupeni railroad, built during the years 1891-1892

Beginning with 1953 the former village became a town, which was declared a municipality according to Law no. 548/ December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

The present-day town that, until the building of Simeria-Petroșani railroad, during the years 1868-1870, was the most important settlement of the Jiu Valley, owing to the fact that the road from Hateg County towards Walachia, through Vâlcan Gorge, used to cross, was made of three settlements:

*Vulcan*. Iacob Radu said that "the old Romanian village consisted in two small hamlets: Crividia and Vaidei, and Vulcan used to be – during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century – a small colony of bishop clerks, settled there for clearance and protection of Vâlcan Gorge; a few peasant houses were built nearby"; in 1855, Crividia village comprised 48 houses, 58 families and 279 inhabitants, while Vulcan gorge included eight houses, nine families, and 30 inhabitants.

*Coroieșteni/Coroiești*, a village located on the right bank of Romanian Jiu River, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, after the last Turkish invasion in 1788, owing to emigration, from Hateg County, and mainly from Coroiești village where it took its

name from. In 1852 Coroieșteni included 64 families and 335 inhabitants, while in 1900, it comprised 513 inhabitants.

*Paroșeni* was built after the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the nobles and border guards in Hateg County, from Paros to Mățești, who initially came to the Jiu Valley with their flocks as the area displayed mountains and pastures. The two previous helmets, Mățeșteni and *Paroșeni*, included in 1852 72 families and 615 inhabitants.

Testimonies about the area had dated since the 15<sup>th</sup> century: Nicolae Kendeffy, the Hateg County noble, died in a battle that his own army wore against the Turkish, in 1442, „in Alpibus Wolkan”, while on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1493, Vladislav the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jagello, the King of Hungary, renewed the ownership act of Mihail Kendeffy and his descendants for a location called Mwryoswar, namely *Morișoarei* brook, which flew through Vulcan.

Data about Vulcan were also contained by the 1733 testimony of Habsburg Emperor Joseph the 2nd, who said that “the valley through which Crivadia was cut in two halves, is mostly covered by woods, while at the end of the valley, on the left side, they found and excavated a hill containing pit coal, which nonetheless has no value in a country rich in wood...”. After only a century, the industrial revolution required the coal in the area and made possible the transformation of a pastoral settlement into a powerful industrial centre, exhibiting urban characteristics.

Although coal was abundant at the upper end of the layers, and was discovered and exploited by the natives, nonetheless mining grew only after the construction of *Petroșani-Lupeni* railroad and mainly after the involvement of “*Salgótarján*” Mining Company, during the years 1897-1900. The mining unit developed by “*Salgótarján*” Company included three mines: West Vulcan Mine, which opened its main gallery measuring 1,580 meters, began in the valley of *Crividia* brook, at an altitude of 630 meters, in 1902; East Vulcan Mine, which opened a transversal gallery, measuring 600 m, in *Valea Arsului*, at an altitude of 630 m; and *Chorin* Mine, which was opened through digging the main shaft, located in the valley of *Crividia* brook, 580 m north from the bank of Western Jiu, finished immediately after World war I. Another mine, owned by “*Valea Jiului de Sus*” Company (“*Upper Jiu Company*”, was opened in Vulcan, located in *Crivia* area.

The hereby group of mines, which beginning with 1921 became the property of “*Petroșani*” Mining Company, as the mine of “*Upper Jiu Valley*” Company, extracted coal until the autumn of 1931 when, due to the restrictions determined by the economic crisis, productive activity was stopped and the mines were abandoned and closed.

Productive activity was restarted within Vulcan area after twenty years, at the time of “*Sovromcărbune*”. At the end of 1949, re-opening works started at “*Dr. Chorin*” shaft, and on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1951 the first tons of coal were extracted; Vulcan Mine is still functional.

A new mine, *Paroșeni* Mine, was opened owing to two flank galleries in 1963, with a view to exploit the coal deposit in *Valea Lupului* (*Woolf’s Valley*) towards *Lupeni*; the first tons of coal were extracted on October 7th, 1966, *Paroșeni* Mine being still functional, yet to be closed until 2018.

The industrial features of the town of Vulcan were also given by the existence of other economic units developed during the years:

- The Electrical Plant of Vulcan, on the right bank of Western Jiu River, founded in 1900, but turned into a modern plant only in 1910 and extended between the years 1926 and 1943, comprising an installed power of 22.8 MW. Between 1963 and 1999, it also functioned as a central heating the town of Vulcan. It produced energy until November 30th, 1973;
- A plant that produced the defence masks against battle gases and a plant processing active coal, built in the Inferior Colony and opened on July 18th, 1937; they were functional until after World War II;
- Paroşeni power-station, located in the Western part of the town, towards Lupeni, built according to the 10-year electrification plan, 1951-1960, and the increase of the mining activity in the Jiu Valley. The construction began in 1952 and, during the first stage, they made functional, between April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1956 and April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1959, three energy groups of 50 MW each, while the 150 MW group was opened on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1964. Beginning with 1981, Paroseni power-station provided the thermal energy required in order to heat the towns of Valcan, Lupeni and Petroşani.
- Coroiesti Coal Preparation opened at the end of 1964, in order to wash the coal extracted by the mines in Vulcan, Paroşeni, and Aninoasa, is today the only functional installation that prepares coal in the Jiu Valley;
- The Hydraulic Pillars Plant, built on the location of the former gas masks plant, and opened in 1969, in order to provide a part of the installations required for the support of the mining slaughters, during the process of increased mechanization of the mining works;
- The Ready-Made Plant in Vulcan opened on June the 1st, 1979, as a promise to provide more jobs for women, after the miners' strike in Lupeni, on August 1977.

A characteristic of the Jiu Valley was the fact that a part of the population remained involved, totally or partly, in forest and pasture agricultural activities. 1967 statistics showed that the area of the town of Vulcan comprised 153 ha of arable land, 3,164 ha of natural pastures and grassland, 53 ha of orchards and 4,016 ha of forests. Subsistence agricultural activities was specific to almost all the households in the villages of Jiu-Paroşeni and Dealu Babii, in the rural area of Coroiesti; after 1990, forests associations functioning in the Jiu Valley according to the imperial act of 1854, were reopened.

With the development of industrial activity, they witnessed a growth of the population in the settlements that formed present-day Vulcan: 3,010 inhabitants in 1900, 10,435 in 1910 and 13,677 inhabitants in 1930; Mines' closure in 1931 determined a demographic descendant course: 7,975 inhabitants in 1941 and 7,201 in 1948, while the revival of the industrial activity beginning with the years '50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century determined a new increase of population.

Meanwhile, built areas develop, and, besides the peasants' ("momârlani") households, still numerous, yet following the general process of urbanization, other private constructions come out at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The mining companies,

and subsequently the State were preoccupied to provide the necessary comfort for those who came here to work. “Salgótárján” Company built the largest part of the Lower Colony and Eternit Colony, while “Upper Jiu Valley” Company built, in the valley of Crividia brook, Rotter Colony; after World War I, “Petroșani” Company enlarged the Lower Colony and built Kokosvár Colony. At the moment mining activities were reopened, they built, beginning with the '50s until the '90s – but, mainly between 1972 and 1989 – a series of blocks, in the whole upper part of the town, between Coroiești and Paroșeni; after 1956, they built, for those who worked at Paroșeni Power Plant, “Sohodol” neighbourhood, in Jiu Paroșeni. Accordingly, while in 1930 Vulcan comprised 1,978 buildings and 3,341 houses, in 2011 Vulcan included 1,789 houses and 11,680 houses.

Social and cultural institutions came into being in time.

The first religious Greek-Catholic school was opened in Coroiești by priest Pavel Oneasă, in 1851. In 1948, the town of Vulcan included three 1-4-grade schools and one 1-7- grade school. “Mihai Viteazul” High School, six secondary schools, and six kindergartens are operating today.

In 1910, “Salgótárján” Company built a hospital, while today sanitary care is provided by the municipal hospital including 250 beds, a specialized ambulatory service, and family doctors.

There is Cultural Club, built before World War I as the Clerks’ Casino, cultural houses in Paroșeni and Dealu Babii as well as a cinema opened in 1980.

Churches were also built. For instance, in Vulcan: the Greek-Catholic Church, in 1906; the Roman-Catholic Church between 1908-1911; the Orthodox Church between 1914-1922; in Paroșeni, the Greek-Catholic Church, in 1901, consecrated in 1904; at Coroiești, the Greek-Catholic Church, in 1924, which replaced an old wooden church constructed at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 4. PETRILA

**PETRILA** (town; in Hungarian: *Petrilla*; 1992: 29,302 inhabitants, 2002: 25,840 inhabitants; on October 2011: 22,692 inhabitants).

According to a legend, the appellation of Petrila – which in the Academy’s dictionary means “stony, unpaved road” – might come from Stone, as, in the old times, the native peasants’ settlements were located on the heights and were called White Stone, Black Stone, Burnt Stone, Red Stone, etc.; Black Stone might make us think of the “stone that burns”, that is coal.

The present-day settlement, developed on a surface of 30,868 ha, is located at an altitude of 675-700 m, at the foothills of Parâng and Șureanu Mountains, in the Eastern extremity of Petroșani Depression, at the confluence area of the Eastern Jiu River (Transylvanian, Hungarian Jiu), where Jiet and Taia brooks spring.

Today, according to Law no. 2/1968 concerning administrative organization, republished in 1981, besides Petrila, the settlements of Tirici, Jiet, Rascoala, and Cimpa are also included in the town. During the first re-organization in 1968, the town of Petrila was made of the former settlements of Petrila, Dobrești, Lonea, Plopi,



Predoni, and Taia; the new configuration also included Cimpa settlement - comprising Cimpa, Birăoni, Burdești, Moșici, Răscoala, and Tirici – as well as Jieț.

The main road towards Petrila is DN 7A – built from Petroșani to Petrila, during the years 1868-1869, which beginning with 1872 was continued up to Lonea, and from Lonea to Cimpa – which intersects, at the gateways of Petroșani from Hateg, DN 66; nonetheless, it can be also reached coming from Transalpina, by DN 7; there is an industrial railroad with normal gauge of 1.4 km, built in 1931 between the preparation of Petrila and the railroad station of Petroșani; a narrow railroad used to function between Deak Mine/Petrila and Petroșani railroad station, built in 1869, and measuring 1,360 fathoms; the railroad was concomitantly built with the narrow railroad from Deak Mine/Petrila to Jieț Mine, measuring 4,370 fathoms, which still exists up to the Mine of Petrila.

In 1950, the former village became a town, which, during the period 1968-1990, was subordinated to the Municipality of Petroșani. Older data say that, beginning with 1872, Petrila was a village administrative centre, with its own mayor, notary public and gendarmes; until then, the settlement was organized as a “large, old-fashioned village”, lead by the “council of the elders”, a local chief, and a judge.

The history of Petrila is quite old.

According to an act given by Lorand Lapes, the vice-ruler of Transylvania, beginning with April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1416, the so-called “*possessio Sylotena*” in the Jiu Valley was mentioned; Radu Popa believes that the previously mentioned settlement, which does not exist anymore, might have had connections with the appellation of Taia brook, an affluent of eastern Jiu River. A property document issued by Vladislav the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jagello, King of Hungary, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1493, referred to “*Pterela*”, considered to have been the present-day Petrila. Data about Petrila were also found in the Conscription drawn out in 1733, when the settlement of “*Sij in Petrila*” = Jiu Petrila included 48 families, an Orthodox priest, and a Greek-Catholic priest; in 1750, they mentioned the settlement of “*Zsil Petrila*” = Jiu Petrila, with 300 inhabitants and a church, while the statistics drawn out by the Austrian administration, during 1760-1762 showed the settlement of “*Petrilla*”, too, including 194 families. Even more thorough, the conscription between 1784 and 1787 said that “*Petrilla*” comprised 1,215 inhabitants, 191 houses, and 190 families.

As no systematic archaeological researches exist, we do not know how old the settlements of Petrila are. Nevertheless, we do know that Petrila and its villages were formed through colonization, perhaps owing to those having come from Hateg County, yet, more probably, owing to those having come from the east, from Mărginimea Sibiului, who settled over the native population that was more numerous.

The territory had been inhabited since Antiquity, as the thesauruses of Lonea, discovered at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century proved; the thesauruses were found in a location called “*La Holdă*” and containing eight silver Roman dinars, and at Jieț-Popi, discovered in May 1962, containing 75 silver coins, dinars, and Roman Antonians. Continual living could also be proved there, beginning with the times of the Dacians and Romans, certified by the multitude of customs and peasant traditions: houses built of rough girders, as the Dacians used to employ, terminated in jointing; square, rectangular, and oval houses, covered with fir, without chimneys; peasants’ tools were made of wood until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is a Getic and Dacian inheritance in the population’s

conception of "fumigation", which occurs on March 9<sup>th</sup>, on the anniversary of the 40 martyrs; such an influence, possibly Roman, may be also seen on the occasion of peasant celebrations ("Nedeie"), which are organized in all the villages, between Easter and Pentecost, each Sunday in a different village. The clothes seem to remind most properly of the Dacian origin and resemble, to a certain extent, to that of the Dacians on the Column of Trajan.

Data also exist about the exploitation of gold from the alluvial sand of certain rivers; J.F. Neigebaur, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, spoke about gold extraction along Jiet brook and the fact that on the hills between Eastern Jiu River and Jiet old relics of gold exploitation and galleries carved in rocks, by pickaxes used to break stone, could be seen. At Jieț they also found tools used for washing gold, among which a construction for logs transportation made of fir, while on the foothills of Parâng Mountains, on Jieț, they discovered a water-collecting basin required by gold washing, the name of the location, "Hududeu" being preserved until today.

It is certain that the ancient inhabitants of the area, generically called "momârlani", mainly carried out a forest and pasture agricultural activity, a feature that can be encountered even today, either as a subsistence agriculture or as a complementary activity in most peasant households of the town of Petrila: in 2002, out of the 25,840 inhabitants, 1,817 lived in the component settlements: Cimpa, Jieț, Râscoala, and Tirici. This type of economic activity is also made possible by the structure of the 11,264 ha of agriculture land: 128 ha of arable land, 5,872 ha of pasture, 5,228 ha of grassland, 18,883 ha of forests, 18 ha of orchards, etc.

The activity that determined the growth of modern Petrila, also determining an obvious process of urbanization, not only in Petrila, but also in the component villages and hamlets, was coal mining.

There are testimonies that certify that the native people used coal for heating, from time to time, and the blacksmiths in the villages of the Jiu Valley and the surrounding villages employed pit coal instead of charcoal in their workshops. We also know that, during the '40s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Hoffmann and Károly Maderspach brothers, iron mines owners in Rusca Montană, began to explore the Jiu Valley and founded certain rudimentary surface mining exploitations, Petrila included; the works went on until the sixth decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Austrian Mines Law, dated May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1854, obliged such entrepreneurs to merge in order to be able to buy mining perimeters; the first concession, Maximilian, located in the area of Petrila, was given to Max. Egon Fürst [enberg] et Comp., on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1858.

Industrial mining began at that moment and involved both the Hungarian State and the private, banking and industrial capital.

The State enters the Jiu Valley in 1865, owing to the Mountain Thesaurus Service, and the first important work, began on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1868, at an altitude of 634.3 m, on the left bank of Eastern Jiu River, was the excavation of the flank gallery opening the Mine of Deak/Petrila. Consecutive to important underground and surface investments at Deak Mine, the State opened, after 1869, within the present-day perimeter of Petrila, through flank galleries, the mining fields of Lonea, Râscoala and Jieț. The explosion of marsh gas and coal dust produced at Deak Mine, during the night of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1872, made the mine improper; accordingly, and also as a result of

the economic crisis of 1873, the State left the Jiu Valley and leased its mines in Petrila, Lonea, Jiet, and Răscoala to the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov, during the period August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1879 – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1896.

The Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov went on developing Deak Mine/Petrila and contributed to the opening, around 1885, of Cimpa Mine, which was a short-term exploitation; yet, it totally neglected the mines of Lonea, Jieț and Răscoala, circumstances that continued after January the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1895, when “Salgótárján” Company took over all its mines in the Jiu Valley. Deak/Petrila mine, which became after World War I Petrila Mine, was fully owned, between 1897-1920 by “Salgótárján” Company; on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1921, it became the property of the new “Petroșani” Mining Company, formed through the taking over, by the State, of the assets of “Salgótárján” Company in the Jiu Valley; in 1947 it was incorporated by “Petroșani” Romanian - Soviet Company, while between 1949-1954 it was part of the assets of Sovromcârbune; beginning with 1945, until today, it functions as the property of the Romanian State; unfortunately, Petrila Mine disappeared as an economic entity, through the program on non-viable mines, so that on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the last ton of pit coal was extracted.

Lonea Mine, called, until around 1925, States’ Mines Lonea, was the result of the State’s coming back to the mining activity in the Jiu Valley, beginning with 1907, when the contract with “Salgótárján” Company was cancelled. Important investments were made in order to capitalize the mining fields belonging to Cimpa I Mine, Lonea II, Jieț III; they built Petroșani North separation unit, Petroșani electrical plant, a cable railway, railroads, and new houses. The States Mines Lonea became, after 1918, the property of the Romanian State and was sold, beginning with the summer of 1925, when “Lonea” company was formed. The Company owned a capital of 180 million Lei, of which 150 million Lei represented State’s participation and 30 million Lei represented private capital. “Lonea” Company was taken by the State on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948, later becoming part of Sovromcârbune; beginning with 1954 it was totally owned by the Romanian State, and is nowadays considered one of the four viable mines in the Jiu Valley.

Besides these two mines, long exploited and providing an important contribution to Romania’s coal production (425,930 tons of coal extracted at Petrila Mine and 330,678 tons extracted at Lonea Mine, in 2005), two other mines also functioned in the area: Lonea Mining – Pillar Unit, which was active between 1986-1994, the first tons of coal having been extracted on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1992, and Petrila South Mining Unit, detached from Lonea Mining-Pillar Unit, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987, when the first tons of coal were also extracted; the mine was active until 1999 and exploited a deposit located on the left side of Maleia brook, in the area of Petroșani.

In order to better capitalize the coal extracted from the underground mines of Petrila, Lonea, and Aninoasa, in 1931, “Petroșani” Company built the Coal Preparation of Petrila, having a processing capacity, through washing, of 270 tons of coal per hour; its capacity was increased to 310 tons per hour, and, after 1943, to 450 tons per hour. It produced brown energetic coal for industrial heating, and, beginning with 1933, coal dust, and coal lighters for consumption, mainly for household heating. Petrila Coal Preparation was closed on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, due to the decrease of the coal production extracted in the Jiu Valley.

During the inter-wars period, “Lonea” Company owned: the brick and tile manufacture, comprising machines-tools with an average daily efficiency of 15.600 pieces; the stone quarry of Taia leased by the forests associations of Petrila for 30 years; and the lime ovens at Taia, with a capacity of 6,000 kg each.

Beginning with 1980 until the first years of the '90s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a furniture manufacture functioned at Petrila; it was created in order to provide jobs to a part of the women living in Petrila.

Industrialization as well as the constant modernization of society determined the development of other economic, social and cultural activities.

An educational system gradually evolved; as far as we know, it started with a religious Orthodox school in Petrila, around 1867. In 1910, the area comprised: a kindergarten in Petrila; two elementary State schools, teaching in Hungarian, in the colonies of Cimpa and Deak-Petrila mine; beginning with school year 1928-1929, four elementary State schools functioned in Petrila, Lonea, Cimpa and Jieț, having registered 1,487 pupils. Today, Petrila comprises eight kindergartens, six general schools as well as “Constantin Brâncuși” Technical College; the 3,594 pupils are trained by 200 teachers.

Cultural centres were also built. During the inter-war period the following centres functioned: Workers’ Casino, with a 200-seat hall and the Music Hall in Petrila; the Casino of the Clerks of “Lonea” Company and “Hali” Hall in Lonea; the cultural centres in Cimpa and Jieț. In 1957, “Minerul” (“The Miner”) cinema was opened, while in 1962, the Workers’ Club was inaugurated, both in Lonea, which no more exist today. Today, “Ladislau Schmidt” Cultural Centre (the former Trade Unions’ Club), built in 1952, on the location of the previous Workers’ Casino in Petrila, the Cultural Centres in Cimpa, built in 1979, and the Cultural Centre in Jiet, built in 1939, as Astra’s Cultural Hall and rebuilt during 2012-2013, are still functional.

A rudimentary sanitary assistance started by 1895, when a medical ward including a four-bed room for isolating contagious patients was founded; during the inter-war period, the Office of Social Insurances provided the functioning of a medical ambulatory service at Petrila, too. The system developed after World War II; in 1957, they opened at Lonea, the Unified Hospital, moved in 1966 into the building constructed in Petrila; it was active until 2011, when it was closed; in May 2013, they reopened it as an external ward of the Emergency Hospital in Petroșani.

Religious buildings were constructed for the various religions coexisting in a multi-ethnic area. There are, nowadays, eight Orthodox churches, two Roman-Catholic churches, a Unitarian church, and a Reformed-Calvinist church, a Christian-Baptist Church, a Pentecostal Church, and a 7-day’s Adventist Church.

That whole evolution determined a constant increase of population, at least until the first collective dismissals in the Jiu Valley’s mining, began in 1997, as well as the growth of built areas together with the assertion of the modern characteristics.

Accordingly, the population increased mainly owing to migration, from 2,487 inhabitants in 1870, at the beginning of industrial mining, to 9,260 inhabitants in 1910, and 10,555 inhabitants in 1941, while in 1992, it reached a maximum number of 29,302 inhabitants.

A large part of those who live in the villages and hamlets of Petrila built their own houses. Yet, for those who came to work in the mine or in other fields, the mining companies and the State provided proper living conditions.

The first colony houses were built during 1868-1874, the Colony of Deak Mine gradually growing, while in the Eastern part of the village, "Lonea" Colony was also built; new houses were constructed during the inter-war period, too, and, in the '50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, near Lonea Mine, and after 1965, in Petrila ("8 Martie" Neighbourhood), a series of blocks were also built. Accordingly, there were 491 houses with 513 apartments in 1857, 3,710 buildings and 7,275 apartments in 1968, and 2,533 buildings and 9,941 apartments in 2011.

## **5. URICANI**

**URICANI** (town; in Hungarian: *Urikány; Hobiczaurikány*; 1992: 12,835 inhabitants, 2002: 10,227 inhabitants; October 2011: 8,972 inhabitants).

The present-day settlement, with an area of 25,141 ha, includes the villages of Valea de Brazi and Câmpu lui Neag, and is located at an altitude of 650-725 m, on the foothills of Retezat and Vâlcan Mountains, in the Western extremity of Petroșani Depression, on Western Jiu River (Romanian Jiu River).

It is connected with the rest of the Jiu Valley by DN 66A and by the industrial railroad, opened in 1956, for the sole use of the mining exploitation of Uricani, which was extended, in 1983, to Valea de Brazi Mining Exploitation; an old forest road, through Jiu-Cerna Gorge towards Baile Herculane, is now modernized.

On January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1965, the former village became a town, according to the Decree of the State Council no. 798, dated December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1964.

Uricani is the Jiu Valley's settlement that started its modernization only after World War II, as the area remained the region of peasant world until the end of the '40s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when, with the exploitation of Uricani mining field, a large part of the old settlement changed from a region where forest and pasture agricultural activities were almost exclusively carried out, into a modern workers' centre, with a population that increased from 1,346 inhabitants in 1948 to 7,739 inhabitants in 1968.

Uricani and its component villages are part of the social and economic processes that occurred in the whole Jiu Valley, mainly during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was both a process of rural colonization during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, which determined the foundation of the settlements that still exist nowadays and the settlement of the peasant population, as well as a process of industrial colonization, after World War II until the first years of the '90s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on the occasion of the coming in, from all the country's counties, but mainly from Gorj County and a series of counties in Walachia and Moldavia, of those who were to work within the mining perimeter of Uricani and to be involved with activities complementary or not to coal mining.

Priest Dr. Iacob Radu said that Câmpu lui Neag village was founded by a brigand, named Negru, and his men, who ran, at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, from the Turkish in Northern Oltenia, and settled first in the area called Dosul Pribeagului; afterwards, they settled in the meadows of Jiu; the family of Cânda seemed to have

come from Hateg County, from Râu de Mori. The settlement, called Nyakmezew, was mentioned by the property document dated 1493 through which Vladislav the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jagello, King of Hungary, gave to noble Mihai Kendeffy of Hateg County, lands in the Jiu Valley.

Jacob Radu also believed that Uricani settlement = Uricani – Hobiceni was founded after the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by those who mainly came from Hobița and Uric and who carried out, on behalf of the nobles in Hateg County owning lands in the Jiu Valley, till the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a pastoral agriculture; they would form counties before the Turkish invasion of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1788, and found the definite settlement only later, on the lands on both banks of Western Jiu River, over 10 km.

The two settlements, with households including “closed and hardened fences”, located along the valleys or on the hills, developed in time; according to the conscription drawn out during the years 1784-1787, Uricani and Câmpu lui Neag comprised: 265 houses, 243 families, and 1,313 inhabitants, while Romania’s general census on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1941 showed that Uricani owned: 308 buildings, 334 households, 14 industrial and trade units, and 1,408 inhabitants, while Câmpu lui Neag registered: 126 buildings, 133 households, 2 industrial and trade units, and 550 inhabitants.

Let’s also mention that, the censuses in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, until 1948, mentioned the two settlements separately and displaying an individual administrative organization. Between 1949 and 1957, Câmpu lui Neag village was include by Uricani, to become independent again, until the administrative organization in 1968, when it became part of the town of Uricani, as it is today.

Nowadays, due to the characteristics of the area – 120 ha of arable land as compared with 4,858 ha of pastures and 15,197 ha of forests – they carry out pastoral and agricultural economic activities, mainly within peasant households, as well as the industrial exploitation of forests, although coal mining had been the prevailing activity for over 65 years.

In February 1947, “Petroșani” Mining Company implemented a project that had dated since the inter-war epoch, namely the opening for exploitation, through Balomir gallery, of the mining field of Uricani, including 25 coking pit coal layers, with a caloric power of 6,600-7,400 kcal/kg. As early as 1948, the first tons of coal were extracted – 23,921 tons – while, in 1951, when an yearly production of 206,000 tons was reported, an independent economic unit – Uricani Mining exploitation - detached from the Mine of Lupeni, was formed within the company called at present Petroșani Pit Coal National Company.

The development of the extractive activity of the Mine of Uricani with a view to exploiting those mining areas, was accompanied by the opening of the following mines: Câmpu lui Neag Quarry/ Mine, on June the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981, where on, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1988 they also extracted the first ton of underground coal; Valea de Brazi Mine, in October 1983; the mines of Câmpu lui Neag and Valea de Brazi were closed on September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999, namely on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and, according to the present strategy concerning Valea Jiului Mining Group, Uricani Mine is going to be closed until year 2018; the fact will presumably determine economic and social issues in such a mono-industrial region.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987, they found the Coal Processing Plant in Uricani as a result of mining development during the ’80s and in order not to transport gross coal to

Lupeni Preparation with a view to be processed; a preparation, planned to process 5.2 million tons per year was also built, yet, it functioned only during the years 1989-1990.

The existence of the quartz deposits at Siglău, analyzed beginning with the '60s of the 20th century, allowed the quarry exploitation of that deposit; with a view to processing the mineral, mainly used by glass industry, they opened, in 1981, the Quartz Preparation in Uricani, which, nonetheless, was closed during the '90s.

At Uricani, they also built the dam made of embankments and the accumulation at Valea de Pești, displaying a capacity of 10 million m<sup>3</sup> of drinkable and industrial water, used mainly for the Western part of the Jiu Valley.

The previously mentioned industrial development also left its mark on the changes of the rural settlement of Uricani and its component villages, during the years that followed World War II.

Population constantly grew both owing to migration from the various areas of the country and to natural increase, reaching a maximum number of 12,835 inhabitants in 1992. For this population as well as for industrial, social, and cultural needs, they started during the '50s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century an urban program, which determined the settlement's modernization. A total number of 56 buildings were constructed, as follows: 48 blocks in Sterminos and the New Town, two hostels for singles, four buildings belonging to Uricani Mine, the cinema, the general school, and later on the workers' club (in November 1971) and the library; the drinking water network was also developed, while most parts of the component hamlets and villages were gradually electrified, etc. The hereby urban process continued during the '70s and '80s, as the blocks in Bucura neighbourhood, hostels for singles, a new school, a kindergarten, commercial galleries, a post office, a cinema, etc. were built. Unfortunately, the avatars of modernization seriously affected Câmpu lui Neag settlement, where, with a view of developing the mining exploitation, they had demolished 39 houses, a series of whom had a historical and ethnographic importance, the church – rebuilt on the Western side of the settlement – the school, which was moved to the cultural centre, and the cemetery, since 1987; such demolishing did not have a positive economic goal; moreover, the new district/ the new centre of the village, which they started to built before 1989, is still uninhabited.

They also showed their preoccupation for founding and building educational and religious institutions.

The beginnings of primary education in the Jiu Valley occurred in Uricani-Hobiceni, during the years 1846-1848, when a certain Dumitru Părău, coming from Gorj County, opened a Romanian language school for the children of the peasants; at Câmpu lui Neag, the religious Greek-Catholic School was opened in 1870, while at Uricani, after the 1846-1848 beginnings, the school became operational again in 1859. Religious Greek-Catholic schools functioned at Uricani and Câmpu lui Neag in 1910, while during the inter-war period, a State primary school functioned in each settlement; in 1937, they built in Câmpu lui Neag the school that was demolished during the '80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1961, General School No. 1 in Uricani moved from its former location built in 1905 in a modern building comprising 16 classrooms and where, during the years 1965-1975, the General Culture High School functioned. On

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1982, General School No. 2 was opened, in Bucura neighbourhood, while between 1969 and 2004, in the building which was the first location of Uricani Mine, the School Children's House functioned, including a general school (1969-1998); the general school in Câmpu lui Neag was also operational, while in the hamlets of Firizoni, Valea de Pești, and Buta 1-4-grade schools were also functional.

A series of churches were built in order to match the religious requirements of a population whose majority was Romanian - 96% in 2005: the Greek-Catholic Church in Mailat neighbourhood, which became, after 1948, the Orthodox Church of the Ascension, built between 1871 and 1874, renovated in 1931 and rebuilt during 1968-1970; the Orthodox Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, built in Uricani, between 2006 and 2010; the Greek-Catholic Church of Saint George, in Valea de Brazi, built between 1937 and 1941, which is an Orthodox Church at present; the Greek-Catholic Church of Archangels Michael and Gavril, at Câmpu lui Neag, built in 1891 and demolished after 1987, a new Orthodox Church having been built between 1988 and 1992.

The hospital was opened during the period March 1993 - January 2003, yet, ambulatories at the mining units as well as a medical service at the level of the town were also functional.

Uricani is one of the gates towards Retezat National Park, where there are: glacial lakes, Zeicului and Toplița caves, as well as a passage towards Walachia: Runcu, Tismana, and Banat; Valea Cernei and Băile Herculane; there are old chalets, as the one in Câmpu lui Neag – built in 1957 - and Buta – located at an altitude of 1642 m in Retezat National Park – as well as newer touristic buildings: the motel in Valea de Pești, built at the time when the dam was constructed, the touristic units in Cheile Bușii, etc.

## 6. ANINOASA

**ANINOASA** (town; in Hungarian: *Aninoszabányatelep*; 1968: 6,751 inhabitants; 1992: 5,552 inhabitants, 2002: 5,106 inhabitants; October 2011: 4,360 inhabitants).

The town of Aninoasa, meaning “the place with alders”, took its name after Aninoasa brook, on the banks of which trees locally called alders used to grow. The settlement is located on the Western part of the Jiu Valley, at an altitude ranging between 556 m at the confluence of Jiu rivers and 800 m on the Eastern and Western margins; its oblong shape is due to the fact that it is settled on the banks of Western Jiu River, in the case of Iscroni village, and crossed by Aninoasa brook, in the case of Aninoasa; the settlement is located between the hills of Bănița and Dealul Babii, Vâlcan Mountains, Parâng Mountains, and Dâlja Hills.

It is connected with the rest of the Jiu Valley either through the main street, which is 8 km in length and reaches DN 66A after crossing Iscroni village, or through Iscroni railway station on Petroșani-Lupeni railroad.

As the other towns of the Jiu Valley, the present-day Aninoasa became an urban settlement the moment coal mining started by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, in the coal exploitation area located in the



valley of Aninoasa brook, they started the construction of “Aninoasa Colony”, which displayed from its beginnings the features of a modern urban place; the village of Iscroni and its hamlets, although they mainly belonged to the local peasants (“momârlani”), they nonetheless gradually acquired modern characteristics.

There is not a concise date certifying the foundation of the settlement, yet, as the Jiu Valley became in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the property of the nobles in Hateg County, between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, a migration process occurred from Hateg County; consequently, the village of Iscroni was populated before 1750 by those coming from Ciopeia. The Turkish invasion in 1788 slowed the process, but, later on, inhabitants from Râu Bărbat, Râu de Mori, and Clopotiva settled in the area.

They believe that an inhabitant from Râu Bărbat, a brigand converted into a shepherd, named Iscru, settled in the Northern part of Aninoasa, so that the location took the name of Iscroni, rooted in the previously mentioned family name, derived with the suffix *-oni*; such a derivation was quite frequent in Hateg County, and they say that the name was present in the settlement until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the Southern part, other inhabitants from Râu Bărbat, relatives of Iscru, came, and another village was founded: Bărbătenii de Jos.

Jacob Radu said in 1913 that Iscroni, and its subsidiary Bărbătenii de Jos, are two hamlets that form a single political village, called Alsóbarbatenyiskrony.

Those two villages seem to be the oldest villages on Jiu River. According to the Conscription of 1750, they registered: *Iszkron Szij* = Jiu Iscroni, with 110 inhabitants and a church; *Szurduk Zsij* = Jiu Surduc, probably the future Bărbătenii de Jos, representing the area of Iscroni towards Jiu gorge, with 105 inhabitants and a church; *Olah Zsij* = Romanian Jiu, with 250 inhabitants, a church, a priest, and a religious singer.

As far as the administrative structure is concerned, according to the conscription during 1784-1787, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Iscroni and Bărbătenii de Jos might have belonged to Livezeni village. Jacob Radu mentioned that, in 1913, Iscroni and Bărbătenii de Jos formed a single village, while, in 1913, Aninoasa became a political village, with its own town hall. In 1968, according to Law no. 2/February 16<sup>th</sup>, concerning the administrative organization of the territory, the suburban village of Aninoasa was formed, depending on the municipality of Petroșani, and including Aninoasa and the village of Iscroni. According to Law no. 2/ April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1989, Aninoasa became a town included in the Municipality of Petroșani, the Decree-law no. 38/January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1990 giving full liberty to the towns that belonged to the Municipality of Petroșani, which included, in fact, the whole Jiu Valley.

The inhabitants of the village, due to the existing conditions, dealt with sheep breeding and wood processing and sold their products to the nearby villages. Meanwhile the 67 ha of arable land, 635 ha of pasture, 540 ha of grassland, and 1,700 ha of forests included in the town's area determined a part of its population, mainly in the village of Iscroni and the lower part of Aninoasa, to deal with a subsistence agriculture, breeding, and forests exploitation even today.

Yet, the main economic activity that changed that ancestral area into an industrial settlement was coal mining.

The company of Mines and Furnaces in Brasov detained in the region of Iscroni, out of the 22 perimeters representing 5,746,471.2 m<sup>2</sup>, leased between 1858 and

1915, according to the Austrian Mines Law, dated May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1854, 7 mining perimeters, representing 1,993,465.8 m<sup>2</sup>; owing to such a situation, they opened, around 1885-1890, the Mine of Aninoasa. Beginning with 1890, the Company in Brasov, exploited the surface areas on the Eastern and Western banks of Aninoasa brook, and, later on, as the surface coal in the open quarries was terminated, they started the underground exploitation, through galleries drilled in the mountainsides that surround the valley of Aninoasa brook; the depth of the mining works determined the building, after 1915, of the first open vertical shafts at Aninoasa and Piscu.

That was the moment when the mining exploitation of Aninoasa was founded; it functioned continuously until April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, when they closed it according to the Government's Decision no. 898, dated August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002; the mine successively belonged to the following mining companies: "Salgótárján" (1895-1920), "Petroșani" (1921-1948), Sovromcârbune (1949-1954), and, subsequently, to the Romanian State. Until 1931, it was the most important mine of "Petroșani" Company, displaying, for instance, in 1924, a production of 226,020 tons of coal; the amount of extracted coal constantly increased, attaining 520,202 tons in 1947 and a maximum of 1,102,400 tons in 1973; in 1989, it dropped to 518,000 tons, and to 38,473 tons, in 2006, when the mine was closed.

Another mine – the Mine of Iscroni - began its opening works on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987, in the area of the village of Iscroni. The mine gave the first 24 tons of coal on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1993; it never became a productive mine as it was closed during the summer of 1993.

Unfortunately, other important industrial activities did not emerge in the town, and the mono-industrial system determined the poor social and economic condition of present-day Aninoasa, after the closure of its mine.

Yet, economic activity determined important social and cultural changes.

A first consequence was the increase of population, owing to natural causes, and especially through the migration of those who came to work there from various parts of the country, mainly in the mining field. And while the 1857 census registered at Iscroni and Bărbătenii de Jos, 653 inhabitants, in 1910 there were 1,523 inhabitants, of which 59.15% Romanians. The Colony of Aninoasa, belonging to the village of Livezeni, is first mentioned by statistics in 1910, with 1,878 inhabitants, of which: 676 Romanians, 951 Hungarians, 172 Germans, etc.; in 1930, there were 1,422 inhabitants in Iscroni and 3,896 inhabitants in Aninoasa, while in 1941, there were 1,400 inhabitants in Iscroni and 2,836 inhabitants in Aninoasa. After the merging of the two settlements, in 1968, the suburban village of Aninoasa comprised 6,751 inhabitants, while in 2002 the town included: 5,106 inhabitants; according to the temporary data of the 2011 census, there were 4,225 inhabitants, of which: 77.53% Romanians, 7.10% Roma, 4.18% Hungarians, etc.

We should also mention that, during the tremendous development in the '70s and '80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of the Mine of Aninoasa, a part of the 3,000 employees of the mine, as well as those who deployed different economic, educational, health, and trade activities used to get there to work from the other towns of the Jiu Valley.

Population increase was accompanied by the growth of built areas, so that from 121 houses and 142 dwelling places existing in Iscroni and Bărbătenii de Jos in

1857, in 2011, there were 722 buildings, of which 716 also included dwelling places as well; 2023 dwelling places in blocks of flats and colony houses, and 597 households mainly belonging to the peasant („momârlani”) population.

They built and modernized the private houses, those belonging to the peasants and displaying “strengthened closures” and scattered on the hills, but most of the buildings and dwelling houses were constructed by the mining companies and the State. After 1885, with a view to offer accommodation to those who came from the different parts of the Austrian and Hungarian Empire in order to work in the mining field, the Mines and Furnaces Company in Brasov began the building of the Colony of Aninoasa, that comprised two dwelling houses and 11 one-floor barracks, with 12 apartments each; the process was continued after 1895 by “Salgótarján” Company and, after 1921, by “Petroșani” Company. During the ’50s and ’60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they rebuilt and modernized the old colonies of the companies; they built new colony houses, such as the barracks in Iscroni, and, after the ’60s, modern blocks were built in Aninoasa downtown, near the stadium; in the ’80s, they also built modern blocks in Iscroni downtown.

In 1910, they introduced sewerage in the colony of Aninoasa, while in 1911, they started to pave and cover with asphalt the main streets, and, for the first time, in 1929, “Petroșani” Company introduced electric lighting in 725 workers’ houses.

Today, there is a drinkable water network, measuring 12.4 km, which covers 90% of the area as well as a natural gas distribution network for the blocks’ area in Iscroni.

Schools were built in each of the two settlements component of Aninoasa.

In Iscroni, beginning with 1856 until 1907, when it was taken by the State, according to Apponyi Law, a religious Greek-Catholic School functioned, also serving the nearby village of Coroiesteni, until 1890; for that institution, the religious community built in 1892 a school made of fir beams. During the years 1936-1938, the State constructed a new school, with four classrooms, which increased to seven at the beginning of the ’60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the school still functions.

In Aninoasa, the school was founded in 1895 by “Salgótarján” Company, which paid all the expenditures concerning the teachers’ salaries, the endowment, classrooms, etc. The present-day building of the school, with eight classrooms, was constructed, together with the teachers’ block, by “Petroșani” Company, in 1922. Besides the two secondary schools, three kindergartens displaying a regular program function today.

Religious edifices for the various religious communities in the multicultural area were also built.

In Iscroni, after the Turkish hold-up in 1788, they built, in 1791, in the area of the cemetery, a wooden Greek-Catholic Church, which was repaired in 1875, and which no more exists. In Bărbătenii de Jos, in the hamlet of the present-day Cătănești, they built a Greek-Catholic Church, also made of wood, in 1805; the church was demolished in 1875 by the army; on its location, Erariul built, in 1880, the stone church, which still exists. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1929, the Greek-Catholic Church, the present-day Orthodox Church in Iscroni downtown, was sanctified.

In Aninoasa, “Salgótarján” Company built in 1911 the Roman-Catholic Church, while “Petroșani” Company supported the construction of the following churches: Orthodox (1926-1929; sanctified in 1931), Greek-Catholic (sanctified in 1924), Reformed (1933).

Today there are two cultural institutions. In Aninoasa, the Cultural Centre of the town, the former Workers’ Club, which was, in fact, the Casino opened in 1901, comprising a hall of 300 seats, a library, an entertainment hall, etc. In Iscroni, there is Cultural Centre, including a 80-seat hall, which is the former Cultural House built in 1947 on the location of the house of the servants and the stables belonging to the former group of buildings of the castle of Maderspach family; it hosted, until 1968, the Town Hall of the village of Iscroni, while at the end of the ’80s, the Mining Unit of Iscroni.

The starting point of sanitary assistance was year 1910, when they created a job for a nurse; the first doctors are employed by the Social Insurances Office, in 1923, which provided the functioning of an ambulatory. It seems that in Aninoasa, during the inter-war period, a hospital for contagious patient used to operate, yet, in improper conditions.

In 1950, they opened the company hospital, including 10 beds and a pharmacy; a sanitary ward in Aninoasa and a sanitary office in Iscroni were also functional. Today, there are two medical wards belonging to family doctors.

An important achievement of the community of Aninoasa is the foundation and development, beginning with 1958, of the department of archery, which had benefitted, since 1973, from a training base and accommodation called “The Archer” („Anena”), and obtained numberless prizes at a national and international level.

Iscroni village also owns a “tulip-bearing tree” (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), originated in Northern America and declared a natural monument. It was brought from Paris, in 1880, by the wife of noble Victor Maderspach, Anna Margarete Maderspach, whom is said to have inspired Jules Verne to write the “Castle of the Carpathians”, while writing him about a castle built between 1202 and 1340 on the territory of the present-day Aninoasa.

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