

# Aromanians

***Aromanians (appointed macedoromanians by Romanian historiography and in popular forms: machedoni, machidoni in aromanian they call themselves or arm nj-armâni sau rr m nj-r m ni) are descendants of indigenous (Macedonians, Thracians, Illyrians and Greeks) Romanized after 168 BC, when Rome created Macedonia (including Epirus, Thessaly, entire Greece). Today Aromanians are about 1 million people living in their native places (Greece, Albania, Republic of Macedonia), to a large diaspora (especially up in the late eighteenth century in Bulgaria, Serbia, and after 1926 in Romania) and in the emigration to West European, North American and Australian. (Prof. .Dr. Mariana Bara)***



You can stay a whole day listening to stories (pirmithi, as they are saying in aromanian) and do not get enough! Proud, Strange, ambitious, calculated, have a special respect to the old family, they, in turn protecting the very young, usually marry the person of the same ethnicity (their wedding was spectacular), are united and help each other. Thrive in all areas of activity; aromanians always give evidence of great respect for everything which is culture, tradition, language and family.

Mathematician Alexandru Gica said:

But how are they actually? "Able (no beggars in our world, is a word that says you have to see aromanians in nursing), we are proud, have personality. Many aromanians can't sit in one place because of the competition between them (...), they help each other and compete simultaneously.

In general, we complain that we made history for others and not for us Characterization was made by Alexandru Gica, an aromanian that is talking about his kind as a "conundrum", a separate nation. We are Romanian, we Greeks are Slavs, we are Albanians and Balkans, we are a little of each.

We are a nation in motion, always on the road. Irina Nicolau



considered aromanians “the Balkan chameleons”, and Matilda Caragiu Mario eanu has found the following definition” aromanians were always south-Danubians. They are the followers of the romanized or colonized by the romans populations from south-eastern Europe (macedonians/greeks/thracians, illyrians...”

Today there is a Aromanian Community in Romania, which was formed as an expression of the will of the Romanian citizens with aromanian origins, to associate and institutionalize to maintain and develop aromanian language, aromanian traditions and culture, to promote the aromanian spiritual values to future generations as our ancestors have done this for us. The statement from Slobozia ", adopted January 18, 2004, has started organizing the principles of the Aromanian Community living in Romania. So far the community has six subsidiaries: Constanta, Tulcea, Calarasi, Ialomita, Bucharest, Timis, amounting to a total of about 7,000 members, belonging to different strains (pindenii, fâr ero ii, gramo tenii, cipanii i meglenoromani).

The aromanian sub-dialects belong to the European heritage and is in the interest of Europe that they are protected and are given a special status. Aromanians are out for years on lists of European organizations that are concerned with the situation of people called "endangered" (that can be irreversible assimilated).

***From Machidons, as we, romanians, call them, I learned what it means to be ambitious and persevering. They are not giving up, fighting for prosperity and care about their family very much. Its in their songs, their costumes and traditions. Perhaps history has taught them not to give up and people from Dobrogea learned from them that there is always room for improvement.***

<http://dzca.ctarm.org/>



## Greeks

***More than 2,800 years ago, Greek ships carrying whole families of merchants, craftsmen, soldiers and seamen, entered the sea named Axaina (dark blue) by Scythians and a name Pontos Euxeinos. Many settlers arrived from the Aegean and from the south coast of Pontos Euxeinos (Black Sea) and remain here because of the commercial opportunities. They founded several cities - ports, such as:***

***Odessa (Varna), Apollonia, Callatis, Tomis, Histria, Argamum and on the Danube: Aegyssos (Tulcea) and Axiopolis (Cernavoda). In modern times, many Greeks have come here with trading intentions. They have established especially in cities (Sulina, Tulcea) but also in some villages (the most known is Springs). In 1850 there were 4284 Greeks in Tulcea County, 2214 of them lived in Sulina.***

According to the 2002 Census, there were living 6513 greeks in Romania, most of them in Bucharest and the surrounding area, followed by the counties of Constanta, Braila and Galati. The 1992 census gave a figure of 19,594 Greeks living in Romania. The differences are the result of a trend of ethnic Greeks outside Greece's borders to emigrate to the motherland as homogeneous (  $\mu$  - Greek descent person). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, through its specialized agencies, says that in Romania there are still living about 14,000 Greek.

Greek dance and song have been combined with serving of traditional foods and customs and appropriate timing of jokes. At the festive table "cor bioarele" and "tiropita" cannot be missing. Although Greek history is full of pagan traditions, as it used to call them today, that remind of old gods and mythology odyssey, have been very tied to the Christian tradition of old Byzantium. Thus, as



Saturnaliile holidays or Sundays, the birth of the sun god Mithra represents victory over darkness and famous models of Greek boats were replaced by the Christmas tree, cross-shaped bread with olive branch, so recalling the birth of Christ, the wreaths of flowers or gifts for the cross (Handkerchiefs, Towels, shirts) to the Holy Thursday, housewives preparing cakes and famous "maghirita", a delicious lamb soup.

***Hellenic Union of Romania organizes various cultural events annually, Greek folk music festivals, dance and poetry. Hellenic Union of Romania edits since 1993, the magazine "Hope" and, in 1999, the monthly newspaper "Dialogue".***

***The Greeks are people of a piece, their parties are single, and they are true merchants and care very much about religious values.***

***The greatness of the Greek nation was felt in Dobrogea. Along with culinary wonders and common sources of faith beginning on Mount Athos, the fact of being proud of these lands, in which many different populations are living together, was spread in all Dobrogea.***

[www.uniunea-elena.ro](http://www.uniunea-elena.ro)



## Lippovans

*In the second half of the eighteenth century, on the roads and country fairs of the Upper Countries could be found men who, by appearance and port showed that they are not from there. Tall, broad-shouldered, with long beards and scattered, with eyebrows colored like wheat under which they closely watched with blue cold eyes. Wearing high boots, high quality leather, dressed in flowery shirts, long, falling over black trousers and beautifully appointed with a woven belt from dyed wool, the ends hanging to the boots' ankles. Strong women, trimmed in brightly colored skirts and blouses with long sleeves, gathered in the middle, wrapped in headscarves with live flowering. Girls in dresses, with headscarves on their shoulders, wearing thick, with woven silk ribbons on their long tails.*



They were Russian fugitives, also called "staroveri", the old Orthodox rite believers, known as Lippovean. These fugitives wandering the land of Moldova for decades in search of shelter and the palms of land.

For Dobrogea region, "staroveri" presence is associated with the migration of Cossacks led by the ataman Ivan Nekrasov, following incursions brought against them by the Tarist authorities. The immigration of the Cossack population and its adjacent extending throughout the period of the eighteenth century. From 1740-1741, the town in Tulcea County Sarichioi became a major center Nekrasov Cossacks, with an outstanding organization of social life by the rules "Covenant of Ignat".

Other old Lippovean villages in Dobrogea (XVIII century) are: Russian Slava, Carcaliu, Jurilovca.

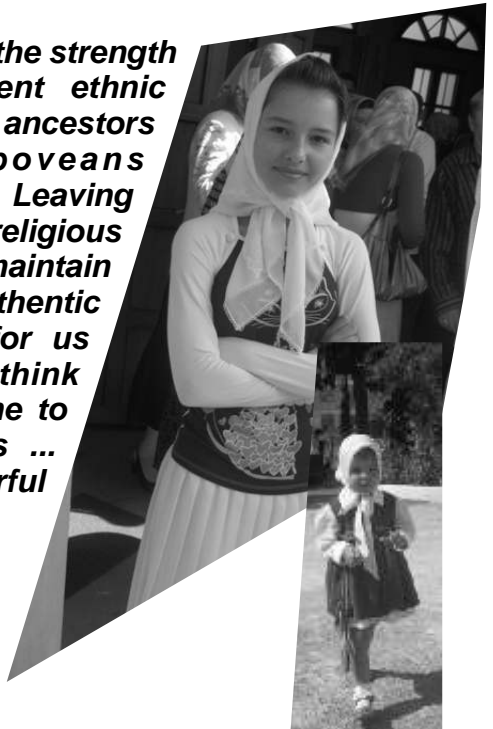


Lippovean-Russians; customs are closely related to religious holidays. Schedule that it respects remained unchanged, as the Julian, lagged by 13 days. To this day the Lippovean-Russians' habit was retained to perform the sign of the cross in almost any action it takes. The best were kept habits Pancake (Cheese Week or "L sata Secului") - weeks before entry into Lent. It is a week of fun, celebrated with joyful songs on the streets of towns and specific milk preparations: vareniki, Blin, piroghi, etc..

LRYAR Lippovean-Russians Youth Association in Romania - part of the Lippovean-Russians Community of Romania, under Statute CRLR, was set on July 26, 2004, based on the General Assembly at the Gura Porti ei. Currently there are a number of 23 local youth associations.

***We remain impressed by the strength with which people of different ethnic traditions and customs of their ancestors make them known. Lippoveans unshakable faith is impressive. Leaving from their home places on religious grounds, have managed to maintain over time the essence of authentic faith. An example to follow for us romanians in Dobrogea. I think romanian fishermen and I come to you Lippoveans delta villages ... appetite tells me that a wonderful dinner of fish is waiting me.***

[www.crlr.ro](http://www.crlr.ro)



## Gypsies

***Gypsies are a nomadic people. Gypsy migration from India to Europe was made in centuries IX and XIV, in several waves. With their entry into the Byzantine Empire, the middle of the eleventh century, acquired the name it bears today ethnic, gypsies. Being in Greece and were given the name of a religious sect named Athinganis or Atsinganos Greek meaning "untouchable". The years 1415-1419 we meet them throughout Central Europe.***



For many people, the most visible element of identity was nomadic Roma. Memory and tradition of nomadism is found and today, this is most visible in the way of living, including where a large part of Roma sedentariza i.

Thus, the traditional tents and covered wagons were often turned in small houses, lack of comfort and situated on the outskirts of towns. Course, there are those called "palaces, houses with many rooms, floors and towers built by Roma with money. But these are exceptions and take Roma's preference for improvisation, decorative and tend to surprise.

Romanian Roma people are about 40 different groups including "C Id rarii", blacksmiths, "ursari", "Grastarii" (sellers of horses) and Fiddlers

A specific element of Roma communities is the emphasis on family values. But this refers to the family in a broad sense, encompassing not only first-degree relatives (children, parents, grandparents, etc..), But also those of the same nation. Often, families have a relatively low importance relative to maintain relations of solidarity centered nation.

A particularly important aspect of Roma culture is music. It was apparently recognized even by the communist regime which



banned longer sing in Romanian, allowing them to play only in Polish, many Roma were forced to leave the singers folk of belonging. In fact, Roma music was completely banned in Romania before 1989 (Helsinki Watch, 1991:21). One of the tribes of the Roma in Romania is known by fiddlers, which indicates that music is more than a tradition for them is a way of life. Since illiteracy is widespread among the Roma, it is assumed that they can not read sheet music. This makes the fame of good musicians that have earned over Europe to be even more appreciated. Roma are equally known for their talent in dance, movement speed and impressive instrumental music combined with the sound of “salbele” and bracelets.

***Many words are used by the Romanian Roma (cool, good luck, a buli, diliu, etc.). And still is soul music fiddlers parties, more weddings are associated with Romanian traditional songs accompanied by the sound of the famous fiddler accordion.***

[www.viitorulromilor.home.ro](http://www.viitorulromilor.home.ro)



## Turks

***The word "Turkish" refers to all inhabitants of Turkish origin in Dobrogea, regardless of when they settled here and regardless of what people are Turkic. Then enter the semantic field of this word, the Turks that arrived in Anatolia and the Crimea Tatars come from other regions and Nogai Tatars and and "iurucii" (nomadic Anatolian Turks) are a remnant of the Golden Horde that were mixed with gypsies. Dobrogea Turks are descendants of the Turkish ethnic groups arrived on the road north Pontic steppe and the southern ones (Oguz), arrived on the southern Balkan route and set here by about a millennium ago.***



Ethnic Turks and tatars, the population of Islamic confession, seated in the will of fate, for centuries in Dobrogea, forms the third community in the country today, that number after Hungarian and German communities. 90% of them are living in Dobrogea, especially in the counties of Constanta and Tulcea.

Among the traditional customs of the holidays the Ramadan has a special place. Their repertoire includes carols: "Eskasak" (goat), "Sehru-remezan" (month Ramadan), "Suval - çuval" (lake) and "sayaldama" (song).

Song (türkü) and quatrains (mani, san) are the most important and popular genre of lyrical belonging to the Turkish population in Dobrogea. The following quatrains ridicule girls that are not married for love, but of interest or from because they are naive, falling victims to their families and the arrangements of the young men: "The hat with many tassels / floats on the waves rocking / I have praised you and were excited / And the name of a dumb was bound to him." In Turkish population from Dobrogea their folklore is storing traces of animal worship, such as for instance the cult of the wolf, horse, bear,



bull, goat, etc... For Turkish peoples of the world the wolf is portrayed as a holy animal. Until recently, in the villages of Dobrogea children used to wear an amulet around the neck consists of wolf fangs and hair, wrapped in a mat or cloth.

Transmitted by oral communication from generation to generation, the precepts of Islam have been appropriated by the Muslim population in Dobrogea, the family, through "medrese" (religious colleges) and of course, "geamii", Muslim religious institutions representative of tradition, which place high part of Islamic ritual activities.

***In addition to the many words of Turkish origin and vocabulary adopted by people in Dobrogea, and the pleasure of going to a delicious "baclavale" (desert) or (Bairam), the population of Turkish origin of these lands managed by very many sayings of wisdom, proverbs and sayings, to praise tolerance , balance behavior. Here are deep and both the current call of the philosopher - poet Yanus Emre:***

***"Come but to know,  
Better to live in peace  
And love, love to be  
For the world did  
have a legacy.***

[www.udtr.ro](http://www.udtr.ro)



## Hungarians

***According to 1992 census, Hungarians are 7.31% of total population. Of the total, 2% are present in Dobrogea, the counties of Constanta and Tulcea. From the history that binds us largely controversial, we can glean many interesting and beautiful things that help us to give up the barriers created by attitudes and visions without too much openness to the contemporary world, which tends to a complex process of globalization, where what matters is beautiful and specificities of each population, beyond the territorial limits within which they can express. I remember in this respect, relations with the Hungarian people during the Romanian rulers, united the interests of defending their lands.***



In Romania, most of the population is in "Secuiesc" (Székely) Land on the old carved chairs from Transylvania: Covasna today, Harghita and Mures county. Popular customs have been preserved unaltered ancestral within the borders of the entire cargo, specificity, language and port. This is the reason why its called Szeklers country with dignity: the Székely, Székely-country. According to studies made, there are 2 ethnic Hungarians in Romania: the Hungarians descendants of the Huns who migrated IX-XI centuries, and Szeklers, that came with the Hungarians who settled in the counties of Harghita, Covasna, Mures.

In Dobrogea there is a small number of Hungarians. However there is interest on their part to not lose the traditions and customs that link them in some way to the rest of the Hungarian population. In



Constanta is an association which supports them and a reformed church.

There are many distinct traditions: wedding full of rituals, rich holiday meals, wood, bread, potatoes, etc.. One lesser-known habits, but rather they realized, is "farsung" funeral. A usually very old, appeared in Transylvania in the early thirteenth century. It is a celebration which banishes winter with all its difficulties and evil spirits, the last occasion of Easter fun before trapping station.

***I could not talk about the widespread desert, "Kürtöskolács", which received its name from the chimney stove chimney stove as Szeklers called "Kürt cs . Thus, "Kürtöskolács" is the size of fire wood stove, including complying with its diameter cake. Thus, "Kürtöskolács", is called yeast dough that is revolves around a cylindrical timber, which is rolled in sugar and sugar melts during baking getting a caramel color, giving the cake glow.***

***Even if the political controversies between the Romanian and Hungarian seem not to end, ordinary people are trying to simplify things, living in good harmony and understanding. In addition to dessert which I have mentioned, which I'm sure you've already enjoyed, or at sea, the resort is the way to Brasov on DN1, is exemplary and cleanliness and the care that ethnic Hungarians have for environments they're living in.***

[www.udmr.ro](http://www.udmr.ro)



## Romanians

***Dobrogea - the fabulous land between the Danube and Black Sea has been the place to assert the civilizing genius and creativity, constructive, all Romanian citizens, regardless of ethnicity. Beyond the diversity of peoples, languages and religious beliefs of its inhabitants, Dobrogea - the historic tradition of the country - was and remains an important part of the world and the Romanian spirituality.***



There are no authors who cannot recognize that "Dobrogea could not be broken with all the other Romanian territories, with whom it kept in touch all the multiple plans and, especially, the Romanian Country, which had been snatched from the hearth by Ottoman conquest. "The phenomenon is complex. Owes much of transhumance which in essence is one of the main factors creating the unity of language, customs and folk traditions. Transylvanian shepherds, Wallachian and Moldavian Romanian Plain were the way to the pasture and hence, passing Balta Brailei and Balta Ialomitei, to Dobrogea, the grazing herds, at the time were - at least until the discovery of the maritime silk road, but after Therefore - considerable.

"Earth of summaries", as Nicolae Iorga was saying, Dobrogea demonstrates this fact and folklore that has dowry: creative indigenous creations and added Romanians' across the Danube creations, influences were always welcome and overlapped a layer of old, local, influencing each other. Playing with masks and puppet theater was a common practice Dobrogea, a practice that still preserves today sporadically. Last, puppet theater met with similar expression of Turkish origin and acquired the name "karaghioz" a



doll with black eyes. Such expressions of popular performance meets the popular dance called the dancing doll, dancing what is playing on the weddings along the Danube. Moreover, memories of the Greco-Roman civilization has left traces of recognized like the cult of dolphins or serpents, the fairies born from sea foam, etc.. The memory of historical unrest also found in folklore Dobrogea quite strongly.

Musical folklore, the text accompanying the songs and the instrumental, although it differs somewhat from the musical of the musical folklore of other areas Romanian folk by the slight influence of oriental folk music or the dominance of tools that whistle, and bagpipes pipe (pipe being found in two variants, moc neasc and Thrace) is dominated by the features of all Romanian folk music. Carols, songs pastoral and fishery preserves the structure layers oldest Romanian. Area middle and southern Dobrogea it specifically a popular game and proves its most poignant Eastern influence (Aksakal rhythm), "geamparaua.

***As a multiethnic and multicultural profile in Dobrogea there was outlined a ethnic model, social peace, a way of life based mainly on tolerance, respect and understanding. Romanian majority and the ethnic Turks, Armenian, Bulgarian, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Russian-Lippovean, taught and practiced "lesson" concord, cooperation and beneficial action together for a good practice of coexistence.***

[www.appct.ro](http://www.appct.ro)

