



# PRO-MOTION eTwinning Project

Gimnazjum im. M. Siemiona, Krzczonów, Poland  
Dante Alighieri High School, Bucharest, Romania

# **Modern and traditional in Romanian and Polish creations**

# Founding the Modern Romanian State

# A little bit of history...



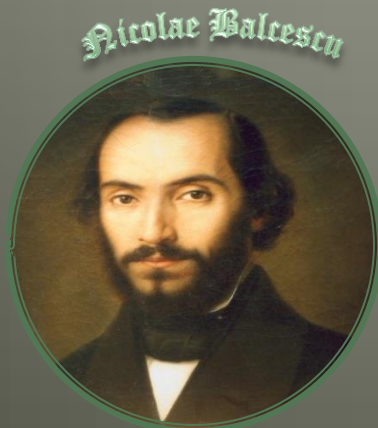
**The greatest desire of Romanian people has always been to be united under the same ruler. For the first time this wish was accomplished under Michael The Brave in 1601.**

**The union was brief, but this made the desire even more intense.**

# The Revolutions from 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries



*Revoluția din 1821*



*Revoluția din 1848*

In this trend, the Romanians acted according to the French Revolution. Although both the 1821 revolution and the 1848 Revolution were defeated, the Romanians were able to remove the Phanariot regime.

# Paris 1856



**In the Congress of Paris of 1856, Count Walewski, the president and the foreign minister of France, proposed the Union of Romanian Principalities under a foreign prince in order to stop the Russian expansionism.**

# The United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia— January 1859



The United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, also known as The Romanian United Principalities, was the official name of Romania following the 1859 election of Al. I. Cuza as the Ruling Prince or *domnitor* of both territories. On 24 January 1862, the Principality of Moldavia and the Principality of Wallachia formally united to create the United Principalities. Alongside Transylvania, the principalities became the core of the Romanian nation state. A new constitution came into effect in 1866 giving the country the official name Romania, and on 14 March 1881, it became the Kingdom of Romania.

# 1<sup>st</sup> december 1918



Country Council of Moldavian Democratic Republic voted on March 27, 1918 the union of Basarabia with Romania.

On 1st December 1918, 1,228 delegates gathered at Alba Iulia and voted for the union of Transylvania, Maramures, Crisana and Banat to Romania.

This way the Romanian State was brought to life under the reign of the king Ferdinand (1914–1927).



# Milestones of Polish history

# 966 – Baptism of Poland



**It was the event that signified the beginning of the christianity of Poland, started with the personal baptism of Mieszko I, the first ruler of the Polish state, and his court. The ceremony took place on the Holy Saturday of 14 April 966.**

**Then Poland joined the rank of established European states recognized by the pope and the Holy Roman Empire. Some historians associate this event with the creation of the Polish state.**



# 1025 – the Kingdom of Poland



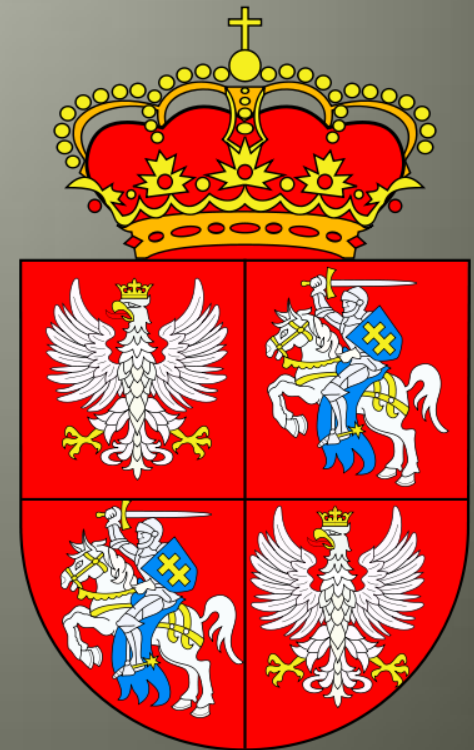
- Bolesław I Chrobry (Bolesław I the Valiant or *the Brave*) in the past also known as Bolesław I the Great, was a Duke of Poland from 992–1025 and the first King of Poland from 18 April 1025 until his death.
- Bolesław I was a remarkable, strategist, and statesman. He turned Poland into a country that was not only comparable to older western monarchies, but also elevated it into the European elite.



# 1569 – Union of Lublin



The Union of Lublin replaced the personal union of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with a real union. It was signed July 1, 1569, in Lublin and created a single State, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. One of the most powerful countries in Europe was created.



# 1683 – the Battle of Vienna



**It was a great battle of the Holy Roman Empire in league with the Polish–Lithuanian**

**Commonwealth versus the Ottoman Empire. The command was**

**held by the Polish king, Jan Sobieski.**

**The victory of marked the decline of Ottoman Empire.**





# 1795 – 1918 - lost independence

Prussia, Austria and Russia divided Poland into 3 parts and stopped its existence for 123 years.

Thanks to many uprisings and the results of the World War I, Poland regained independence in 1918.



# 1939 – 1945 – World War II



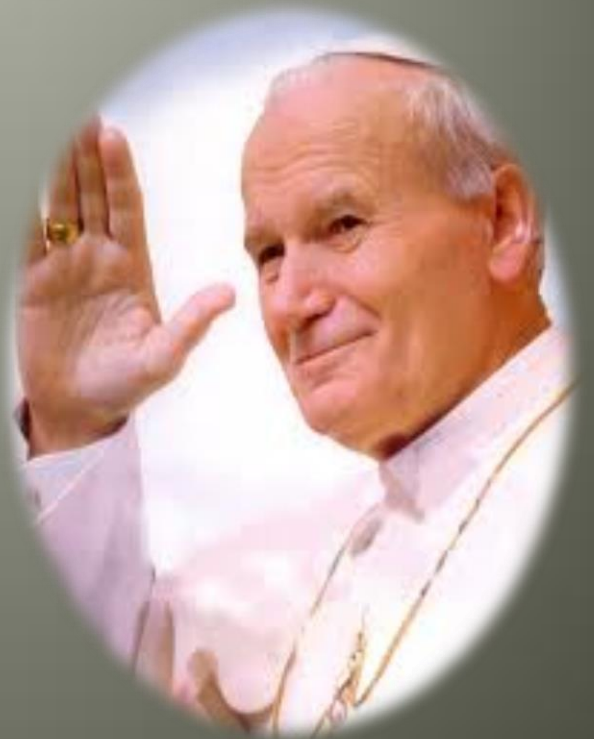
- It began with the German invasion on Poland. Polish soldiers fought against the Nazis in all fronts (Europe and Africa). Polish soldiers became famous in the Battle of England, battle of Monte Cassino and many others.
- Over 5 million Polish citizens (soldiers and civilians) died during the war.
- Poland lost 48% of its territory in the east.



# Post-War Poland



- 1945-1989 – the communist regime
- 1978 – Karol Wojtyła became the Pope John Paul II
- 1980 – Solidarity movement – an attempt to destroy the communist regime
- 1989 – the end of the communist era
- 2004 – Poland became the member of European Union



# Romanian Literature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

# Junimea



- Junimea (“Youth”) was a Romanian literary society founded in Iasi in 1863, through the initiative of several foreign-educated personalities led by T. Maiorescu, Petre P. Carp, Vasile Pogor and Theodor Rosseti. The foremost personality and mentor of the society was Maiorescu, who, through the means of scientific papers and essays, helped establish the basis of the modern Romanian culture. Junimea was the most influential intellectual and political association from Romania in the 19th century.
- Junimea, the literary circle Titu Maiorescu founded in 1863, reacted against the prevailing interest in literary form .

# Mihai Eminescu – our national poet



- Mihai Eminescu was a Romantic poet, novelist and journalist, often regarded as the most famous and influential Romanian poet. He was an active member of the Junimea and he worked as an editor for the newspaper *Timpul* ("The Time"), the official newspaper of the Conservative Party. His poetry was first published when he was 16 and he went to Vienna to study when he was 19.
- In his poems he frequently used metaphysical, mythological and historical subjects. In general his work was influenced by the German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer.

# Emil Zegadłowicz



Emil Zegadłowicz will publish, in Polish, many Romanian literary works (M. Eminescu, V. Alecsandri, etc.) in some poem books like "Tematy rumunskie" (1931) and "Wybor poezji i poematów" (1933).

# Polish Art in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

# Romanticism



Polish Romanticism was not limited to literary and artistic concerns. Due to specific Polish historical circumstances, notably the partitions of Poland, it was also an ideological, philosophical and political movement that expressed the ideals and way of life of a large portion of the Polish society subjected to foreign rule as well as ethnic and religious discrimination



# Adam Mickiewicz



One of the greatest European poets compared to Byron and Goethe.

He is known chiefly for the poetic drama *Dziady* (*Forefathers' Eve*) and the national epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*, the last great epic of Polish-Lithuanian noble culture.

All his works served as inspiration for uprisings against the three imperial powers that had partitioned Poland out of existence, and contributed to the concept of Poland as "the Christ of Nations."



# Frederic Chopin



He is widely considered one of the greatest Romantic piano composers. He composed many of his mature works in Warsaw before leaving Poland in 1830 at age 20.

Chopin invented the instrumental ballade and made major innovations to the piano sonata, mazurka, waltz, nocturne, polonaise, étude and prélude.



# Romanian Folklore

# Romanian Birth Tradition

In the Romanian tradition in the first week after a baby was born there are three fairies which come on the odd days to take care of the baby and to predict his/her fate.

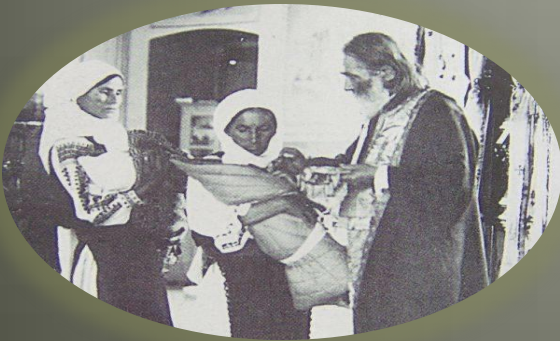
An old story says that the fates could be seen by midwives but when the midwives told this secret to everyone the fates lost their powers.



# Baptism



The tradition of midwives and christening is a strong one in Romania, in Olt, Banat, and Transylvania. When the midwife goes with the baby at church she will say : ‘’I bring a heathen, and I’ll take a Christian ‘’, and when she comes back she will say : ‘’ I brought a Christian, and I took a heathen ‘’.



# Romanian Wedding Rituals



Romanian weddings are full of rituals that are performed to bring about happiness, prosperity, and to integrate the newlyweds into their new social status as a married couple. Costume has special significance and the rituals of the ceremony include a well wishing at the bride's gate, dowry dance in the bride's yard, the parents' forgiveness, the wedding at the groom's house, the gifts, and the bride's adorning. Poetry, song, dance and ceremonial costumes all have a detailed role in the wedding ceremony.

# Romanian Christmas Carols



## Romanian Christmas Carols

- Christmas carols and the practice of caroling both feature heavily in Romanian Christmas traditions. The act of going through the village, or from house to house, singing carols dates to pre-Christian times.

Today, Romanian carolers are most often children who may carry a staff topped with a representation of the Christmas star. Some Romanian Christmas carols have a religious theme, while others may not.



# Painted Easter Eggs, a Folkloric Tradition in Romania



## Painted Easter eggs, a folkloric tradition in Romania



In some Orthodox countries there is a tradition of skilfully painting eggs before Easter. The tradition is very vivid in areas of Romania like Bukovina (the Nordic part of Moldova). A legend has it that when Jesus Christ was crucified, Mary Magdalene came at the feet of the cross with a basket of food she had bought. The blood of the Lord dropped over the eggs in the basket, turning them red. Following this legend, Christians in the East started painting eggs in red in the Thursday before Easter. This is still done in every Romanian family, using a simple method, by dipping the boiled eggs into a pot with food dye.

But of hundreds of years, in villages of Bukovina, this custom was turned into an art. To paint the eggs, the peasants don't use synthetic dyes, but rather natural herbs.

# Dragobete



Ever since ancient times, Romanians used to celebrate Dragobete on the 24th of February. It was a sort of Valentine's Day. This is the time when nature wakes up from her sleep, birds look for places to build their nests, and people, especially the youth, follow nature's course.

# Dragobete



- A mythological deity similar to Eros or Cupid, the son of Dochia, Dragobete is a handsome man who likes to indulge himself in love affairs. He is not mild like St. Valentine, but tempestuous like the Dacian god who was thought to celebrate in heaven the marriage of all the animals. This has later extended to people also, and young people keep the tradition up to this day: boys and girls meet on this special day to make their love last.

# Mărțișorul



- Mărțișor is an old tradition celebrated all over Romania every year, on March 1st. The name Mărțișor is a diminutive of March (*Martie* in Romanian).
- It is believed that the person who wears the red and white string would enjoy a prosperous and healthy year.
- Not long ago, in the countryside, people used to celebrate the Martisor by hanging a red and white string at their the gate, window, cattle's horn and shed to protect against evil spirits and to invoke nature's regenerative power.



# Polish folklore a contribution to European culture

# Boże Narodzenie (Christmas)



- On Christmas Eve, people in Poland have a large feast that contains 12 dishes,
- each one representing one of the 12 days of Christmas. There is no meat served on
- Christmas Eve, only fish. In Poland, an additional seat is kept for somebody unknown at the supper table as one should be left alone at Christmas.
- At midnight between 24 and 25 December, people take part in a holy mass called “Pasterka” (Shepherd’s Mass).
- Children wait for gifts which they can find under the Christmas tree.



# Wielkanoc - Easter



- Holy Week lasts from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday, the week before Easter Sunday, is marked by church attendance with palm-like bouquets of dried flowers. In some areas there are contests for the longest and most impressive palm.
- On Easter Saturday, baskets of Easter food and painted eggs are taken to church to be blessed; the food that is blessed is eaten as a part of the Easter Sunday meal. The Easter breakfast consists of hard-boiled eggs, cold meats and other dishes, including a cake in the form of a lamb to symbolize Christ.
- Easter Monday is a family holiday in Poland and is called Smigus Dyngus or Wet Monday, after the practice of men and boys pouring water on women and girls.





# Boże Ciało – Corpus Christi

- It always takes place on a Thursday usually in June but sometimes in May. A traditional procession leaves the church and continues on the streets with a priest holding The Holy Host. Children at the front of the procession sprinkle flowers in front of the priest. The procession stops at four altars along the route where prayers are said and hymns are sung.
- Many people place garlands and pictures in their windows but the most decorative are the villages that decorate all the fences and streets where the procession is to take place with flowers, green leaves and sacral objects.



# Lajkonik



- The Lajkonik is one of the unofficial symbols of the city of Kraków. It is represented as a bearded man resembling a Tatar in a characteristic pointed hat, dressed in Mongol attire, with a wooden horse around his waist.
- The story is connected with the Mongol invasion of Poland in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. One version of the legend says that when Krakow defeated the Tatars, the defenders dressed up in the Khan's clothes and rode around the city to celebrate the victory.
- The city continues the tradition with a festival that has taken place every June for the past 700 years.

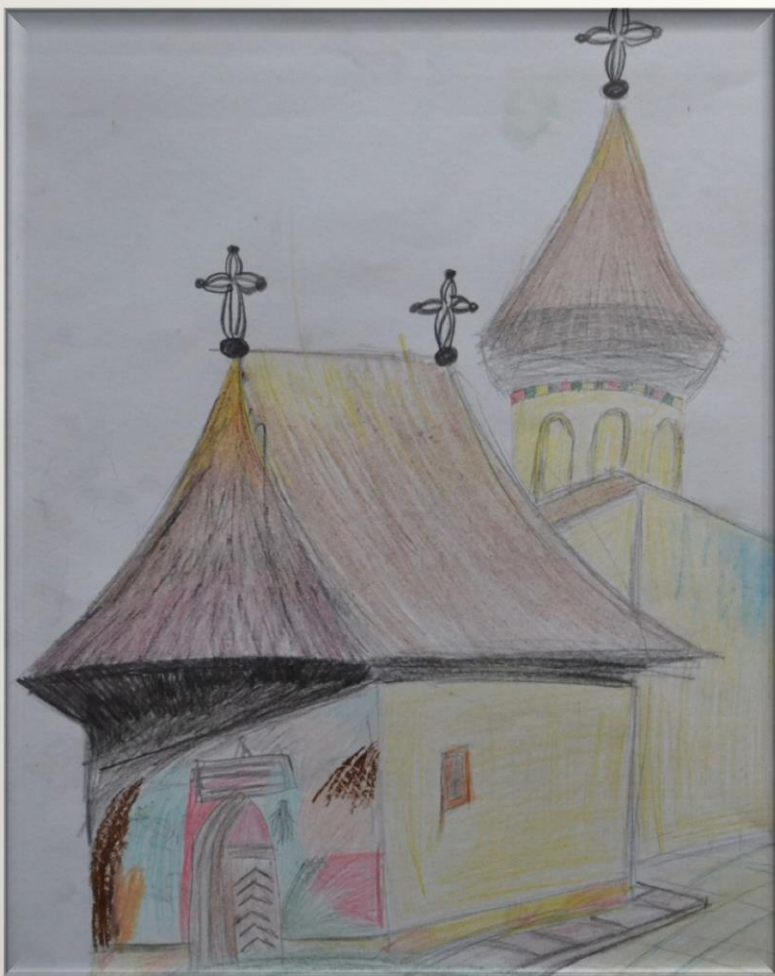


The Polish Students have drawn pictures  
with representatives Romanian buildings

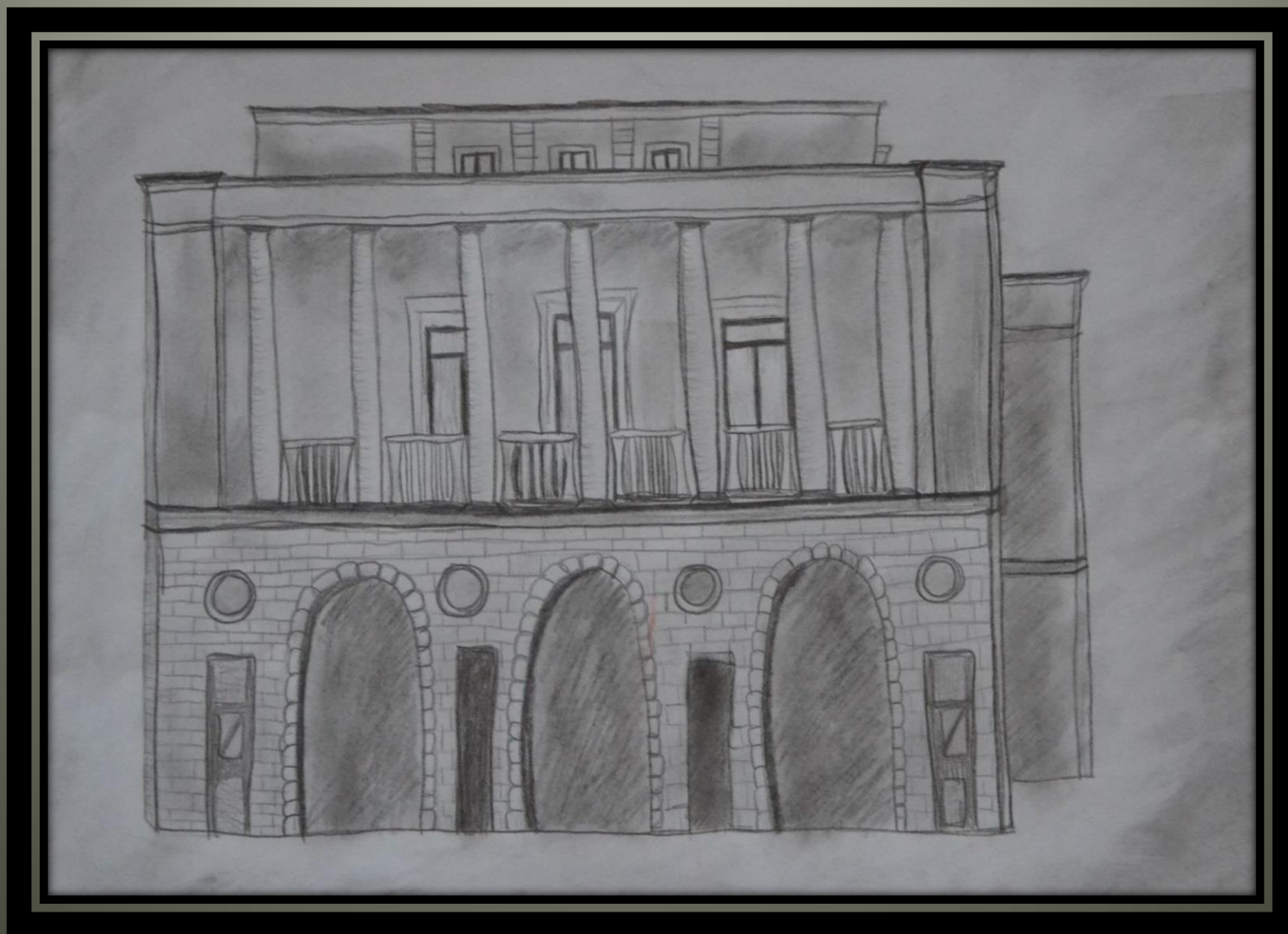
















The end  
Thank you!