

**BRIEF HISTORY**  
**"IULIA HĂLĂUCESCU" HIGH SCHOOL, TARCĂU COMMUNITY**  
**NEAMŢ COUNTY - ROMANIA**

The rural school in Tarcău was founded in 1895, "by order of the Ministry of Religions and Public Instruction with order no. 2893 of December 17, 1894".

The school opened on January 10, 1895 in the presence of priest V. Mărculescu from Bicaz, the mayor of Pîngărați commune, I. Şova and the first teacher-director C.R. Teofănescu-Gribincea, who also taught in Bicaz, being replaced in the 1895/1896 school year by Vasile Gh. Onea.

The lack of interest of the local authorities, the scarcity of school supplies, adequate furniture and school space were constants of education in the commune.

It will experience a real restructuring thanks to the legislative regime, based on modern principles, conceived by Spiru Haret at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries and which showed their fruits around the First World War.

During the school years 1898/1899, 1899/1900 and 1900/1901, in addition to the two existing classes, another class is created and the teacher Vasile Gavrilescu from Oanţu is appointed, but still under the supervision of the titular headmaster C.R. Teofănescu-Gribincea from Bicaz. The school was inspected on January 10, 1898 and October 6, 1899 by the inspector Tit Mărdărescu, who noted the deplorable state of the premises and the lack of the most basic facilities. The description of this premises, where the school operated starting with the 1898/1899 school year, can be found on page 34 of the Monograph of the Tarcău commune by Gh. Verşescu. Formerly a pub, then a school and later a forestry canton, this building still exists today, but it was renovated and became the property of the forestry brigadier Nicolae Enea. Only the vaulted cellar under the construction still reminds us of the former building that had been a pub and then a school.

Since May 1, 1907, the school has been operating in another building, owned by the commune, in a former building of the administration of the "Torock" forestry company, located on the right bank of the Bistrita River, "with 7 rooms and many outbuildings".

In the school year 1910/1911, three teachers worked: Agripina Pavlovici, V. Ionescu and Aristotel Teofănescu, the last two graduates with a diploma from the "V. Lupu" Normal School in Iaşi who came on a temporary basis. The school was inspected by the inspector Gh. Nicolau who noted little progress regarding the training of the students and the material conditions. As at any beginning of the journey, the school faced many shortcomings, especially of a material nature, but also due to the irregular attendance of the courses by the students, but especially its staffing with substitutes.

The most stable period in the functioning of the pre-war school was between 1902-1912, when the school was under the guidance of teacher Agripina Pavlovici. She was concerned with improving attendance, but at the same time she showed more care for the children. The result of this change is recorded in the report concluded following the inspection of the school by the inspector Gh. Nicolau on September 10, who "was satisfied with the progress of education, noting the sufficiency of the teaching knowledge of the headmistress, the methodical approach to teaching, the accuracy in the office and archive", that is, a quite noticeable progress compared to the past.

In the school year 1916-1917 the school was closed. Romania's entry into the war caused many inhabitants of Tarcău to be mobilized to the front. During this school time, the village priest, Gh. Verşescu, took care of it, who in the school year 1917-1918 reopened the school, gathering the children of the villagers and seeking to meet the need for knowledge of the young students, helping them to pass more easily this time of great trials through which the entire country was actually going. After the end of the First World War and especially after the reunification of our territory and nation, the prospects for the development of education in general were different, but with positive effects for education in all schools in the town of Tarcău.

The number of students increased, their attendance was getting better and better, and among the teaching staff came valuable people with innovative and progressive ideas, who dedicated their entire skill to the prosperity of the local community to which they would feel connected. Among them, the young graduates of the Piatra Neamț Normal Schools, Calistrat Bogdan and his wife Maria (Pitaru) Bogdan, stand out. Calistrat Bogdan is responsible for the construction of a new building (the old school), but also for the construction of the current building of the Tarcău School. He was the school's director and led the destinies of this unit for 23 years.

*The old school building (right) and the home of the school principal, the teacher, Calistrat Bogdan*



Teachers Calistrat Bogdan, Maria Bogdan, Ecaterina Nourescu and Veronica Zaharia, the latter working until the 1947/1948 school year, were concerned with the inclusion of all school-age children in the commune in the education system, with ensuring a satisfactory material base, while at the same time being a permanent presence in the religious, cultural and social life of the local community. The inspection reports from this period record, among other things: "I would like to note with particular spiritual satisfaction that Mr. Calistrat Bogdan, the director of this school, is a model teacher" or "generally speaking, the teacher, school and education are exemplary in the commune of Tarcău".

In the 1937/1938 school year, the school was inspected for the first time by the Inspector General of the Iași region, Nicolae Tomulescu, who awarded teacher Calistrat Bogdan a grade of 10 for enrollment in the first teaching grade, and the school the grade of "very good", "noting the concern for the scholastic and extracurricular activities of all teachers."

We owe all these achievements to the illustrious teacher Calistrat Bogdan, director and teacher of the school, a man of scientific culture and high pedagogical training, a promoter of progressive and humanistic ideas, the man who sanctified these blessed places through his deeds, forming many classes of educated and trained students to be good stewards, lovers of country and people, founders of strong families, with faith in God and in the perennial values of this nation. We owe this personality our entire gratitude and pious remembrance.



**Calistrat Bogdan**  
**(school principal between 1922 – 1945)**

In 1937, at the initiative of the kind-hearted teacher Calistrat Bogdan, who was also a member of the Board of Directors of the "Albina" Forestry Cooperative, the decision was made to build a new school building in the civic center of the commune, because the old school no longer had a large enough space to accommodate an increasing number of school-age children.

The Board of Directors of the "Albina" Cooperative Society will purchase the land for the school from the Munteanu family and will bear all the construction costs. The architect and entrepreneur Carol Zani was contacted, who would be in charge of erecting the entire construction, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1938, in the presence of high-ranking church figures, led by the Metropolitan of Moldova, as well as officials of the time: Eng. Constantin Turcan, director of the "Albina" factory, mayor Toader Ailincăi, priest Gh. Buba and the initiator of the project, the school's director, Calistrat Bogdan.



*The consecration of the site and the laying of the foundation stone of the current building of the Tarcău School – 1938 (Constantin Turcan lays the foundation stone of the new school; in folk costume, Mayor T. Ailincăi)*

The number of students increased, their attendance was increasingly good, and among the teaching staff came valuable people with innovative and progressive ideas, who dedicated their entire skill to the prosperity of the local community to which they would feel connected.

The construction will be made of brick clad on the outside with stone (Tarcău sandstone), being an imposing building, with 4 classrooms, a chancellery, the director's office, a celebration hall and a basement with 4 rooms in which, after 1950, the school's boarding school will function.

Next to the school building, the principal's residence is also being built, where the families of teachers Iacob Petru and Negrea Dumitru will live for many years. Today, this building houses the "Iulia Hălăucescu" Art Museum. The construction of the school and the principal's residence will be completed in 1942 and will be put into use starting with the 1943-1944 school year, in the midst of the war.

It is the merit of the teachers who remained at the department, who, under the guidance of priest George Buba, kept the school's doors open during World War II.



***The building of the I-VIII grade school "Iulia Hălăucescu" – Tarcău***

After the change in the political leadership of the country by establishing the communist regime, a new education reform will be applied starting in 1948, of the Stalinist type, having an inflexible character in the first decade of application, after which changes will occur that will bring education closer to the tradition and psychic nature of the Romanian nation.

In the commune of Tarcău, education constituted a factor of social and cultural balance, during that period of sad memory, especially through the contribution of young teachers who demonstrated high professionalism and diplomacy in order not to unnecessarily expose students and their parents to the "class struggle".

After the fire of the sawmill by the retreating German army, the inhabitants of the commune, at the end of the war, rebuilt it, working only for food and clothes. And when everything was starting to return to normal, the communist government nationalized this factory, although at that time it was a cooperative society belonging to the cooperative members, that is, the inhabitants of Tarcău. This aspect would influence the development of education in Tarcău for a long period of time. Another factor that would influence local education by increasing the number of students would be the settlement in the factory workers' colony of families coming from the hill and plain areas, fleeing the forced cooperatization.

Since 1950, a boarding school has been operating at the Tarcău school for war orphans, for those in need, or who came to classes from the villages of Brateș or Ardeluța. Here, they are provided with meals and accommodation in two bedrooms in an adjacent building belonging to the Munteanu family.

The increase in the number of students after 1965 necessitated the construction of a new building with 6 classrooms, where school classes could be organized in two shifts.



**The teaching staff of Tarcău School - 1955**

Thus, in 1971, this project was started and would be completed in 1972, when the "new school" (building B) would be put into use. The building has two classrooms on each level. Being built with the foundation and basement below ground level, and the insulation being inadequate, it caused dampness to appear on the lower level. The classrooms in the basement were temporarily suspended, then, having been rehabilitated, they are currently functional.



**Building B of Tarcău School built in 1972 and rehabilitated in 2016)**

With the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, Tarcău School received the name of the illustrious visual artist "IULIA HĂLĂUCESCU", a daughter of this locality.



**The school principal's residence building, today the "Iulia Hălăucescu" Art Museum**

The "Iulia Hălăucescu" Art Museum was inaugurated in November 2003 in the commune of Tarcău, in the building where the "former teacher's house" functioned. With the support of the local authority and numerous art-loving sponsors, the building was rehabilitated 80 percent and arranged to become a museum. The museum's permanent exhibition covers an area of 100 square meters arranged like a fairy tale land, which reveals the charm of Tarcău from a bygone era.

The museum building includes six rooms that house almost 120 plastic works, as well as personal objects of the artist who was nicknamed the "lady of Romanian watercolor". All the objects and works exhibited in the museum were donated by Iulia Hălăucescu to her native commune, Tarcău. In the rooms intended for "the delight of the eye and mind", landscape paintings and numerous portraits are exhibited, representing the artist's family, but also great personalities of German cultural life, including Constantin Mătase and G.T. Kirileanu.

The museum, through the works and objects on display, manages to give us a glimpse into the artist's life. The numerous pieces of furniture, along with documents and ornamental objects, recreate the atmosphere of the house where the painter Iulia Hălăucescu grew up.

In this school year, 2016-2017, the "Iulia Hălăucescu" Junior High School, Tarcău Commune operates with 3 groups in preschool education, 5 classes in primary education and 4 classes in junior high school.

The active cooperation of the school and teachers with other educational factors, the family, the local community, the media, the church, non-governmental organizations, must lead to the creation of viable partnerships, capable of allowing a positive approach to the various problems of young students. The school must find the optimal forms through which those involved in this educational process can manage human resources, have knowledge of psychology and pedagogy, and be able to adapt quickly to the management of changes in today's society.

In the 2016-2017 school year, we carried out activities within the educational project "Museums and Schools", in partnership with the Neamț County Museum Complex-Roman History Museum, collaborating with Mrs. Dr. Otilia Mircea, project coordinator. All preschoolers and school students were involved.



Activity with preschoolers from the Tarcău Regular Program Kindergarten



Activity with primary school students from "Iulia Hălăucescu" Junior High School, Tarcău Commune





Activity with middle school students from  
"Iulia Hălăucescu" Middle School, Tarcău Commune

The project aimed to attract preschoolers and school students to museums, in order to learn about and capitalize on cultural heritage. The museum activities and exhibitions organized by the Neamț County Museum Complex in 2017 were promoted within the unit.