



ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING TRANSYLVANIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

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## Archaeological Summer School Transylvania 2014

May- August

# Syllabus

### Project Staff

**Professor Florin Gogâltan**, PhD- Project director

*Scientific researcher, Institute of Archaeology and History of Art of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca; Associated professor at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca*

**Elena Cristina Cordoş**, MA – Project manager, field coordinator and guide

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**Marian Adrian Lie**, MA – Field coordinator and guide

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**Victor Sava**, PhD – Collaborator

*Archaeologist, Arad Museum*

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## Schedule and Location

<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> May-28<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Excavations at Sântana - Bronze Age Fortified Settlement ( Sântana – Arad county)</b></p>	<p><b>Brief History</b></p> <p>Sântana is located at around 20 km North-East of Arad city and 5 km East of the European route Arad-Oradea. The earthwork (three enclosures with an estimated surface area of 80 ha and a perimeter of 3630 m) is first mentioned on the Josephine topographic maps (named this way after the emperor Joseph II of Habsburg) in the 18th century (1782-1785). Thus, the map XXIV/XXX accurately displays the largest enclosure of the earthwork, named <i>alte Schanz</i> and a great-sized tumulus located on the Southern end of the complex. For more than 200 years, Sântana Cetatea Veche has aroused the interest of specialists, either scholars or simple enthusiasts of past remnants. The cyclopean dimensions of this earthwork came under the attention of different chroniclers of Arad region ever since the 19th century. The first extensive description of that archaeological monument, accompanied by historical accounts, was made in 1882 by historian Sándor Márki. Despite the doubts expressed from time to time, Márki assigned the earthwork from Sântana to the Avars. In the spring of 1888 golden jewellerys were discovered here by the workers employed to develop the railway between Arad and Oradea. The workers found a vessel made of coarse-grained material containing human bones and a treasure consisting of 23 golden pieces. An inhumation grave was discovered nearby, containing a crouched skeleton, with no inventory. The rescue excavations undertaken by Aurel Török revealed a child tomb and an adult tomb, with no archaeological inventory.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Investigation</b></p> <p>Until the middle of the 20th century, no other specialist took interest in the earthwork from Sântana. The historiography trend ascribing the earthwork from Sântana to the Avar people was about to change, as a result of the field research conducted by Egon Dörner and Mircea Rusu in the spring of 1952. They came to the conclusion that the earthwork „<i>may be dated back to the Bronze Age, which means over 3500 years old...</i>“ As a consequence of the new chronologic interpretation of the earthwork, in the summer of 1963, a team of archaeologists, including Mircea Rusu, Egon Dörner, Ivan Ordentlich and Sever Dumitraşcu, embarked on a large scale investigation of the site. For more than 30 years the results of their research were not published. The intention to resume the research of the earthwork from Sântana, began to gain</p>
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	<p>shape in spring 2008. The goal of the archaeological research carried on in the autumn of 2009, was to establish the stratigraphic profile of the site and to study the earthwork structure. Ceramic fragments and bronze artefacts that belong to the late Bronze Age were found in different layers.</p> <p>Much is to be done regarding the earthwork form Sântana. Only a very small portion was investigated, and certainly this site still has to offer major surprises.</p>
<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> May-28<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b></p> <p><b>The non-destructive investigation of tell-settlements in the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin</b></p>	<p>The Bronze Age tells occupy the highest position in the settlement system of the Carpathian Basin and can be compared to contemporary sites from the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations. Their development covers a period of approximately 1000 years, between circa 2500 and 1500 B.C.</p> <p>The tells differ visibly from the rest of contemporary settlements from the Carpathian Basin both in terms of architectural building patterns and thickness of the occupation debris resulted from long-term inhabitation of the same area. The central role played by the tell-settlements in the region is also proven by their fortification systems, the presence of defensive structures indicating the fact that a certain political authority with control over a well-defined territory.</p> <p>The main objective of this project is to reconstruct everyday life in the Bronze Age tell-settlements from Western Romania and determine the precise nature of what living in these sites implied. At a macro-regional perspective, our results will provide a better understanding of the complex structure of the Bronze Age landscape in the Carpathian Basin.</p> <p>One of the steps of our investigations will focus on conducting Stereo 70 topographic surveys, aerial photography and magneto-metric measurements for each tell-settlement. In the same time test trenches will be conducted, in order to get a better understanding of the stratigraphical sequences and also to recover appropriate samples for Radiocarbon dating.</p>

**Working hours:** Monday to Friday (8 AM-4PM)

Saturday, Sunday - fieldwalks, field trips and other recreational activities

### **Field School Description:**

The project is developed in collaboration with different Romanian institutions (Institute of Archaeology and History of Art of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Arad Museum).

All students will have the opportunity to engage in various activities. Effective participation in an archaeological investigation is, in our opinion, the only opportunity to learn and fully understand the methods applied in field archaeology. The archaeological excavation is actually a process with several stages, starting with choosing the areas to be excavated, followed by tracing its limits, implementing strategies and methods for proper excavation, collecting and registering artifacts, photographing and drawing the features of the dig, processing data and issuing final interpretation and assumptions. All these processes will be completed by students, with constant support and guidance provided by specialists.

Students will also participate in archaeological field walks, which are intended to identify potential areas of archaeological interest. They are carried out in the form of field trips in which participants learn how to identify an archaeological site in the field and what actions they have to take in this situation.

At the end of the program we hope that each student will hold the basics of archaeological research (the theories and techniques used by archaeologists in excavating a site), will understand and be able to apply the methods of documentation (photography, drawing, etc.), will have the ability to operate the tools and equipment provided.

### **On field regulations:**

The recording process involves making drawings, writing descriptions and where necessary, taking photographs of what is being excavated. You should NEVER excavate something on site without producing a full and proper record. To do so only compromises the excavation. To avoid such problems always ask for HELP from your appointed guide when you are uncertain of what your next step should be.

You are responsible for your own records, tools, finds and samples, so make sure they go to their proper place when you have finished with them.

Excavations are potentially dangerous places. Care should be taken at all times to avoid injury to yourself and others by following a few simple rules: when using large tools such as spades or shovels, always make sure you know who is around you and where they are standing. Check your tool if the head is worked loose. If so, don't use that tool and make everyone aware of its flaw. You should refrain from sitting on or walking near the edge of a deep trench - which can result in soil collapse. In wet weather take extra care as the ground can become very slippery. Try not to overestimate your physical and technical abilities (by lifting or carrying more than you normally do - for example).

An archaeological site must be kept tidy. Rubbish, buckets, barrows, tools, finds boxes and trays, stones and any other obstacles that could cause tripping must be kept in their proper places, and well clear of paths and thoroughfares. Tools should be cleaned of all dirt at the end of every day by scraping with you trowel.

### **Evaluating students:**

Each student will be evaluated by a supervisor, based on his involvement, activity and abilities. Keeping an archaeological diary (notebook and pen provided) is also mandatory for evaluation.

## **Accommodation:**

Accommodation conditions will vary throughout the project, depending on our location (the archaeological site investigated at the moment).

## **Other useful information**

### **Suggested packing list**

First of all, try not to over pack. Bring only the things you consider necessary. Don't panic if you think you forgot something important. Except for your personal identification documentation (we recommend you make an carry around several photocopies of all of your I.D. documents) almost everything else can be replaced.

Since the project takes place during the summer, be prepared mainly for warm or hot weather. Bring light clothing you feel comfortable in. To prevent heat stroke you also need to bring a brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. In addition, you will need sturdy working shoes and working gloves. Even during the summer temperatures can drop, so wind stoppers, fleece jackets and long pants are also useful. As rain can sometimes start without much notice, bring a waterproof jacket or a raincoat. It is not necessary to bring working tools, those will be provided. Don't forget about personal hygiene products (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, towels, deodorant, nail-clipper, etc.). If you plan to bring any electronic devices, don't forget the chargers, some extra batteries and other associated cables, etc. You may also need an electric outlet convertor. In Romania Type C Electrical Outlet is used. A water bottle, a flashlight, a pocket knife and some medication can come in handy, as well.

### **Visa regime for Romania**

Holders of valid ordinary passports from the following countries may enter and stay in Romania for a period of up to 90 days within 6 months with exemption from the Romanian entry visa.

Citizens of EU countries, holders of permanent residence permits issued by EU countries, citizens of Albania (\*), Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina(\*), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, South Korea, Costa Rica, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(\*), Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro(\*), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Salvador, San Marino, Seychelles, Serbia [excluding holders of Serbian passports issued by the Directorate of Serbian coordination (in Serbian: Koordinaciona uprava)] (\*), Singapore, The Holy See, Saint Kitts and Nevis, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, British Nationals (overseas), Taiwan (with an I.D. number), Hong Kong (Special Administrativ Region), Macao (Special Administrativ Region).

\*Holding only biometric passports

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For more information about the sites and staff members visit our website at

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