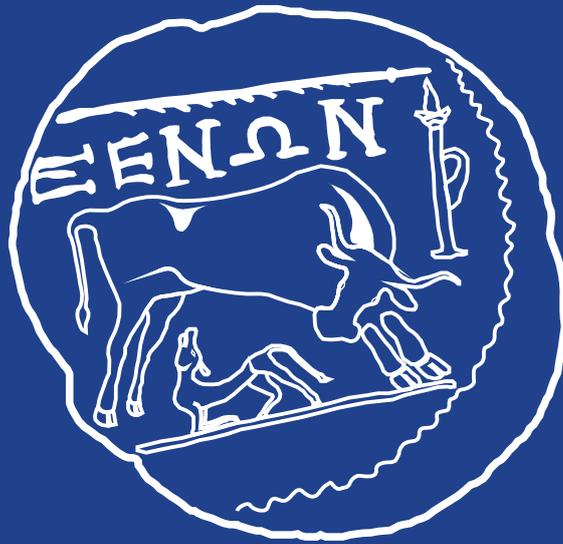


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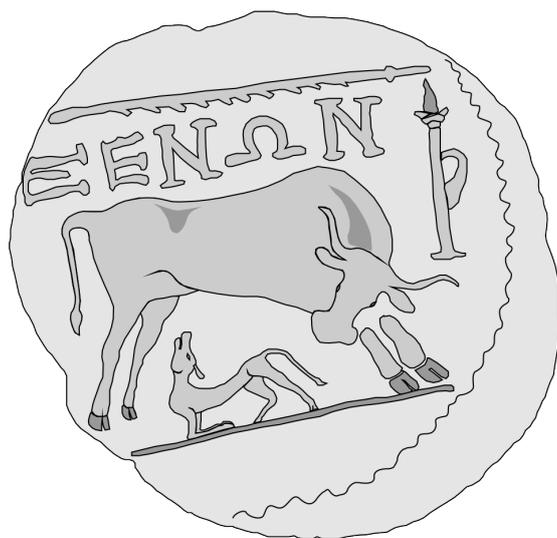
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This volume is dedicated to Florin Drașovean at 70 years

Acest volum este dedicat lui Florin Drașovean cu ocazia împlinirii a 70 de ani



Contents / Cuprins

Laudatio	9
-----------------------	---

Research papers / Studii

Cristian Eduard Ștefan

Vidra Type Axes Revisited: The State of Research Nearly Two Decades Later	17
---	----

Andrei Mărincean

Inside Daub: A Preliminary Study of Burnt Wattle-and-Daub from the Late Bronze Age Site of Sântana-Cetatea Veche	25
---	----

Feraru Remus Mihai

Theos Megas Derzelas, an Enigmatic Deity of Odessos: Cult and Iconographic Representations. A Numismatic and Epigraphic Study	51
--	----

Florin Mărginean, Erwin Gáll

Revised Information on the Early Avar Period Grave from Sânpetru German-Magazin	67
---	----

Călin Cosma

Social and Gender Symbolism of Earrings in the 7th–8th Century Avar Communities of Transylvania	77
---	----

Dan Băcueț-Crișan

Less Discussed Aspects in the Research of Early Medieval Wares from Romania: Purpose, Use, Re-use, and Recycling. Theoretical Interpretations and Archaeological Realities	115
---	-----

Imre Szatmári

The Round Church of Battonya	129
------------------------------------	-----

Augustin Mureșan, Adriana Gașpar

The Fortress of Pomezau (Bihor): History, Heritage and Conservation	153
---	-----

Timea Major-Keresztes

Adornment, Status and Mobility: A Hairpin from Zalău-Valea Miții (Sălaj county) and Its Place in Early Modern Material Culture	179
---	-----

Field reports / Rapoarte asupra cercetărilor de teren

Vlad Murgu, Victor Sava, Ioan Cristian Cireap, Andrei Mărincean

Tehnici de teledetecție și cercetări de suprafață. Contribuții noi la cunoașterea așezărilor din zona Olari, județul Arad 187

Sofia Berteza, Victor Bunoiu, Iulian Leonti, Vyara Stancheva, Andrei Geor-gescu, Răzvan-Ioan Pinca, Bogdan Calotă, Patrik Ostaș, Dragoș Diaconescu, Robin DiPasquale, Ionuț Marteniuc

The Archaeological Excavations at Susani – Grămurada de la Jupani:
Report on the 2025 Field Campaign 233

Victor Sava, Florin Gogâltan, Marian Adrian Lie

Excavations at the Late Bronze Age Mega-Fort at Sântana – *Cetatea Veche*.
The 2018 Field Campaign 243

Ioan Cristian Cireap

Illyrian Drachmas and Late La Tène Iron Items Discovered at Monoroștia – *Dâmbu lui Hârtici*
(Arad County) 385

Cătălin Discă, Iulian Leonti

The Roman Roads South of Berzovia: Some Observations and the Results of New Research 291

György Kerekes, Zoltán Rózsa

Árokos. The Success Story of Identifying an Archaeological Site in Mezöhegyes – Revisited 317

Reviews / Recenzii

Alpár Dobos, Sándor Berecki (Eds.), *The Migration Period Cemetery from Ernei*. Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis Series Archaeologica XIX. Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, ISBN 978-606-020-636-1, 192 pages.
(**Erwin Gáll**) 333

Laudatio

On the occasion of reaching the milestone of 70 years, we look with respect and gratitude at the career and contributions of Professor Florin Draşovean, a man whose life and work have been dedicated to the study of archaeology. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated admirable consistency in the pursuit of a scientific ideal, becoming a model of integrity, erudition, and passion for humanity's past.

Florin Draşovean has always been passionate about the history and culture of the Banat region, as well as the evolution of civilizations in southeastern Europe. Born on August 14, 1955, in Hunedoara, Florin Draşovean understood from an early age the importance of studying the past, which led him to pursue his studies at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. Here, he obtained his bachelor's degree in history in 1980, with the thesis *The Neolithic of the Middle Mureş Basin*, under the guidance of the renowned professor Hadrian Daicoviciu, one of the most respected Romanian archaeologists. This work paved the way for a successful career in archaeology, specializing in the research of the Neolithic and Eneolithic periods in southeastern Europe.

During his university studies at the Faculty of History and Philosophy at the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Florin Draşovean was a dedicated student, distinguished not only by his rigorous scientific approach but also by his passion for archaeology. Under the mentorship of great scholars like Hadrian Daicoviciu and Gheorghe Lazarovici, he acquired solid theoretical and practical knowledge in prehistoric archaeology. His entire academic formation was marked by exceptional attention to detail and a constant desire to understand not just historical facts but also their broader context.

After graduating in 1980, he entered academia, initially working as a history teacher. However, his desire for further study and research led him to join the Banat Museum in Timișoara in 1984, where he began to apply the knowledge he had gained and participate in crucial archaeological excavations essential to understanding the prehistory of the region. During this period, Florin Draşovean began working on significant archaeological sites, making notable contributions to the research of Neolithic and Eneolithic cultures in Banat. Between 1992 and 1993, he became the deputy director of the Banat Museum, and between 1996 and 2001, he served as the general director of the institution. In these positions, he contributed to the hiring of numerous young archaeologists, who would later build careers within the institution. During this period, he became the general coordinator of the journal *Analele Banatului*, the History-Archaeology, Art, and Ethnography series. He also founded and became the editor of the Banat Museum's monograph series, *Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica*, in which he edited 56 volumes. This intense editorial activity, combined with his professional expertise, led Professor Draşovean to become a member of the editorial board of numerous scientific journals.

His intense publishing activity is evidenced by the publication of over 100 scientific articles, excavation reports, and exhibition catalogues, as well as 13 books published both in Romania and abroad. The value of his work has been recognized through prestigious awards granted by the Romanian Academy.

Professor Draşovean's academic path is closely linked to his scientific achievements and valuable contributions to the field of archaeology. After obtaining his PhD in history in 1994, with the thesis *The Late Vinča Culture in Banat: Its Relations with Neighbors*, he became one of the most respected researchers of the prehistoric era, both in Romania and internationally. Throughout his career, he has actively participated in major archaeological excavations in southeastern Europe, contributing to research that has shifted perspectives on key periods in the region's history.

One of Professor Draşovean's most remarkable achievements was his in-depth research into the Neolithic civilization of Banat, a subject profoundly influenced by his work at key archaeological sites in Foeni, Hodoni, Sânandrei, and Uivar. These studies led to the discovery of essential information regarding the life and organization of prehistoric communities, which have been recognized by experts worldwide. In addition to these emblematic archaeological sites of Banat, he coordinated numerous other systematic excavations, as well as pre-development archaeological excavations dedicated to major infrastructure works, such as those along the bypass around Timișoara and the section of the Arad-Timișoara highway.

Moreover, his academic activity has been marked by a constant involvement in training new generations of archaeologists. In the early 1990s, he taught the course on General Prehistory at the West University of Timișoara. He then continued his academic career at the Faculty of History at the Banat University of Timișoara, eventually becoming its dean. Starting in 2008, he became a doctoral supervisor at the “1 Decembrie 1918” University in Alba Iulia, and from 2013 to the present, he holds this position at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. He has been a dedicated mentor whose influence has been felt both within academic institutions and in the subsequent research of those who have studied under him.

Professor Drașovean’s work has not been limited to archaeological research but has also extended to museology and the promotion of cultural heritage. As the director of the Banat Museum in Timișoara, he was a strong advocate for the protection and valorization of the region’s historical heritage. Under his leadership, the museum became a reference center for archaeological studies in Banat, serving as a place for the preservation and display of valuable collections that illustrate the historical evolution of the region. A testament to this is the organization of international scientific conferences dedicated to the Vinča culture and other phenomena specific to the Neolithic period.

The exhibitions organized by Florin Drașovean had a significant impact on the public, and his museological work has been recognized and appreciated both nationally and internationally. His efforts in promoting cultural heritage have been essential for understanding the historical values of the region. He was also an active promoter of international collaborations in the museum field, ensuring that the heritage of Banat would be appreciated beyond Romania’s borders.

Since 2019, Florin Drașovean has been active within the Titu Maiorescu Institute for Social and Human Research, part of the Timișoara branch of the Romanian Academy. In 2021, he became the director of the institute, bringing together a team of young researchers. Under his leadership, the symposium *Historical Memory, Literary Memory: Challenges and Perspectives* was launched, and starting in 2024, the two series of the institute’s journal, *Studia Banatica*, began to be published.

At 70 years old, Florin Drașovean stands as an example of scientific dedication and professional integrity. His work, deeply anchored in the values of rigorous research and quality education, has influenced and will continue to influence generations of archaeologists who will follow. In each of his projects, Professor Drașovean has demonstrated an intellectual rigor rarely encountered and a capacity to inspire those around him, encouraging them to seek the truth in the face of the complexities of the past.

Through his scientific, educational, and museological contributions, Florin Drașovean has left a remarkable imprint on Romanian archaeology, and at the age of 70, he finds himself at a moment of reflection on a life fully devoted to the knowledge and understanding of the past. With characteristic modesty, Professor Drașovean does not seek recognition for his accomplishments, but these achievements will remain an essential part of Romania’s scientific heritage.

On this celebratory occasion, we extend our sincerest congratulations and thanks for all he has contributed to enriching our country’s cultural, educational, and scientific heritage, and we wish him to continue being a beacon of inspiration for new generations of researchers, teachers, and science enthusiasts.

Happy 70th anniversary, Professor Florin Drașovean!

Victor Sava

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