

BRONZE and IRON AGE EXCAVATION DACIAN FORTRESS, TEMPLE AND SETTLEMENT Racos, Southern Transylvania, Romania JUNE 6 – JULY 10, 2010



Half way between the medieval city of Sighisoara (the real Dracula's birth place and an UNESCO Heritage Site) and Brasov (and the nearby Bram Stoker's Bran Castle), a very elaborate system of Dacian strongholds, civilian settlements and religious centers has been located in the Racos de Jos area. The complexity of the region has only been understood in the last few years when the excavations of the great temple complex at Augustin have been finalized. The extent of the site, its relationships to the other Dacian sites (including ours), the quality and quantity

of the material finds proved that we are dealing with one of the greatest La Tene (Late Iron Age) Dacian settlements in South-East Europe.

The site we are currently excavating is on a hill facing the Augustin Temple Complex and most likely associated with it. The test trenches excavated the past two years have exposed a rich and complex fortified center, destroyed by Emperor Trajan's legions during the Daco-Roman wars (102-106AD). The magnitude of the destruction level testifies to the importance of the site both to the Dacian and the Romans.



In 2009, we uncovered several very rich Bronze Age votive shrines, pointing to the presence of a temple complex nearby. During the 2010 season, we will explore the acropolis and surrounding terraces in order to identify the urban Dacian fabric and locate the Bronze Age temple. Considering the extraordinarily rich and varied archaeological material recovered last four years, the 2010 excavation offers exceptional promise.

Duration: 5 weeks (2 weeks minimum stay)

Costs: US\$365. It includes:

- Excavation registration taxes and fees
- A spot in the camping area
- Excavation tools, fire wood, stove, etc.



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ROMAN FRONTIER EXCAVATION & SURVEY CASTRUM & DACO-ROMAN SETTLEMENT Rasnov, Southern Transylvania, Romania JULY 11 - AUGUST 14, 2010



Near the city of Brasov (and the nearby Bram Stoker's Bran Castle), is part of the Roman limes, a system of defensive forts that established the Roman Empire's control over the area. These forts, called *castra* (*castrum* singular), are found throughout the contentious regions of the empire, and would have housed Roman Legions. Through literary sources and material finds, the Roman names for these *castra* can be known, such as Cumidava.

Castrum Cumidava is located just outside of the beautiful tourist town of Rasnov. This *castrum* was established during the Daco-Roman wars (102-106 A.D.), and was utilized for 150 years by the Romans. This duration, along with evidence of several building episodes, indicates that the fort was an important part of the Transylvanian Roman *limes*.

During the 2010 season, we will be looking at different use areas, both within and outside of the fort's walls, to construct an image of daily life in the fort. At the same time, we will explore the evolution of the military structures in response to local pressures. We will also be conducting a soil survey to locate a civilian settlement. While the forts were well manned, rarely were they self-sufficient, and a local settlement would be near by that would be the source of food, goods, and services. To find the civilian settlement, we will be testing for phosphate, which accumulates in the soil with long habitation of a site. Weekly workshops will be offered on various excavation techniques, survey and soil chemistry, as well as local history.



Duration: 5 weeks (2 weeks minimum stay)

Costs: US\$395. It includes:

- Excavation registration taxes and fees
- A spot in the camping area
- Excavation tools, fire wood, stove, etc.
- Lab fee which covers the cost of chemicals for the soil chemistry workshops

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