

Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanta



dr. Gabriel Mircea Talmatchi,
Principal Scientific Researcher I

**Following in the footsteps of the Pontic civilizations
(from Greek Colonies to Present Romania)**

***9 May 2022, Passenger Terminal Hall, Constanta Port
Hybrid event***

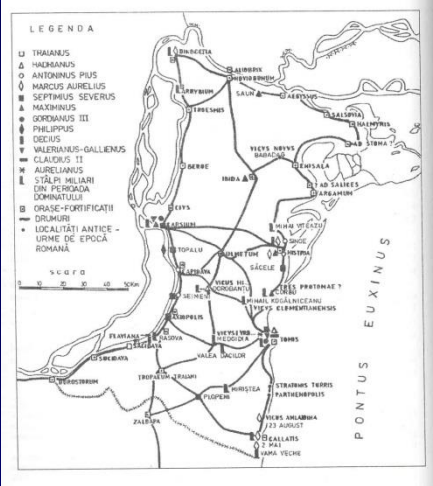






Dobroudja -the Greek tradition-

- **The Greek tradition is very strong in the area of the Black Sea coast , where three important colonies will be established: Istros (7th c. BC), Tomis (6th c. BC) - Milesian colonies, and Callatis (4th c. BC) - Dorian colony.**
- **Conquered by the Romans towards the end of the 1st c. BC and getting special juridical status (*civitates liberae* or *stipendiariae*), the three cities maintained, at least for the Early Roman period, their traditional Greek institutions.**
- **The Roman civilisation penetrated in the most diverse ways: the colonization, the presence of the army, the specific Roman institutions, the Roman cults contributed to the Romanisation of some important categories of the population in the coastal cities, well emphasized by the epigraphic documents.**



Roman Dobroudja – the Latin area-

- Western and Central Dobroudja – territory intensely colonized with Roman and Romanised elements
- Roman-type cities (*municipia*): Durostorum, Troesmis, Noviodunum, Tropaeum Traiani
- Various fortifications that formed the final segment of the Danubian Limes : auxiliary forts (Axiopolis, Capidava, Carsium, Arrubium, Aegyssus, Halmyris) and legionary camps (Durostorum - for the *Legio XI Claudia*, and Troesmis - for the *Legio V Macedonica*)
- Numerous rural settlements (*vicī*) confirmed epigraphically or archaeologically.

Tomis – metropolis of Scythia Minor

- Founded by colonists of Miletus (6th c.BC);
- Integrated into the Empire with status of *civitas libera et immunis*, the city rapidly becomes a metropolis of the province Moesia Inferior -headquarters of governor (2nd to 3rd c. AD);
- Mixed population (Greek and Latin speaking);
- Late Roman - Early Byzantine period : headquarter of province Scythia; expands its surface about 70 hectares.
- The triumphant Christianity is very eloquently illustrated by the numerous basilicas discovered and by city's leading role in the ecclesiastic organisation of the province.
- Tomis – Constantia - Constanta : the current name of the city perpetuated itself, starting with the Middle Byzantine period.





Museum of National History and Archaeology from Constanta

Organizational Structure

- MNHAC is managed by a manager-executive and a chief accountant

Sections and Departments

- Preventive Archaeology
- Exhibitions, Promotion and Preservation of Patrimony
- Research, Development and Projects
- Accounting and Human Resources Department

MNHAC headquarters also comprises:

- A library which keeps over 45. 000 volumes, of which 80% archaeology related
- A conference hall - "Adrian Rădulescu" Aula
- A multimedia area and two temporary exhibitions Spaces

Main fields of activity:

- research
- preventive and sistematic archaeology
- museology
- culture
- education
- publishing



MNHAC is situated in the old part of Constanta, in the same area were Tomis used to lay. This part of the city superposes the ***ancient site of Tomis***, making the archaeological research in the area difficult or even impossible. Is ***significant cultural institution for the history and archaeology of the region situated between the Lower Danube and the Black Sea (Dobroudja)***.

Ancient artifacts were first displayed in Constanta in 1879, after the first mayor of this city understood the importance of Dobroudja's history and the impact that it should have on its inhabitants. Since 1879 the ancient artifacts of Dobroudja have been displayed in different buildings from modern Constanta.

In 1977 MINAC was organized in the same building that shelters and displays the artifacts today.



- The building was erected in 1928 and it first functioned as the *town hall* of Constanta. Since 1977 it has been known as one of the most important cultural centers in Constanta, organizing and hosting not only *exhibitions* with historical-archaeological content, but also *cultural, educational events* and *book releases*.



The main events are organized in "Adrian Rădulescu" Aula. Each wall painting depicts an important moment from Romania's past.

Exhibitions



The *Treasury* room displays the most valuable collections: the *glass* collection, *jewelry* collections, *Greek and Roman* sculptures, and many other important artifacts

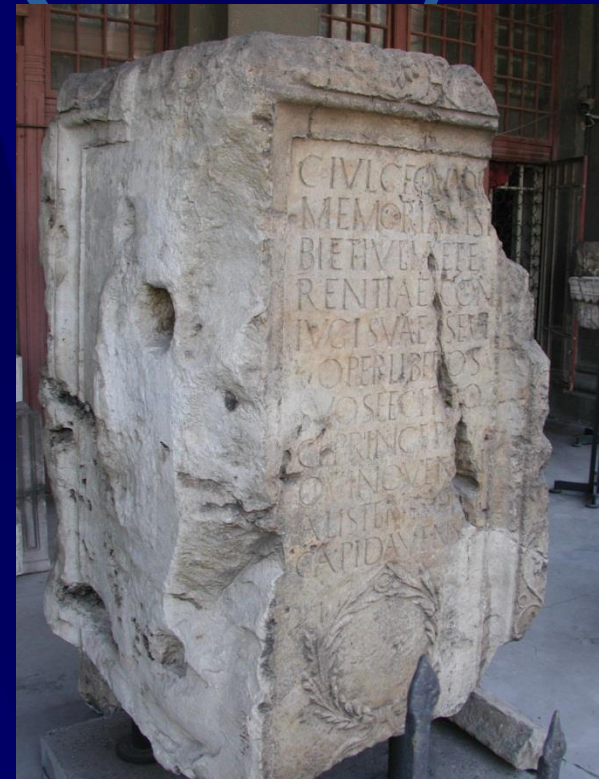




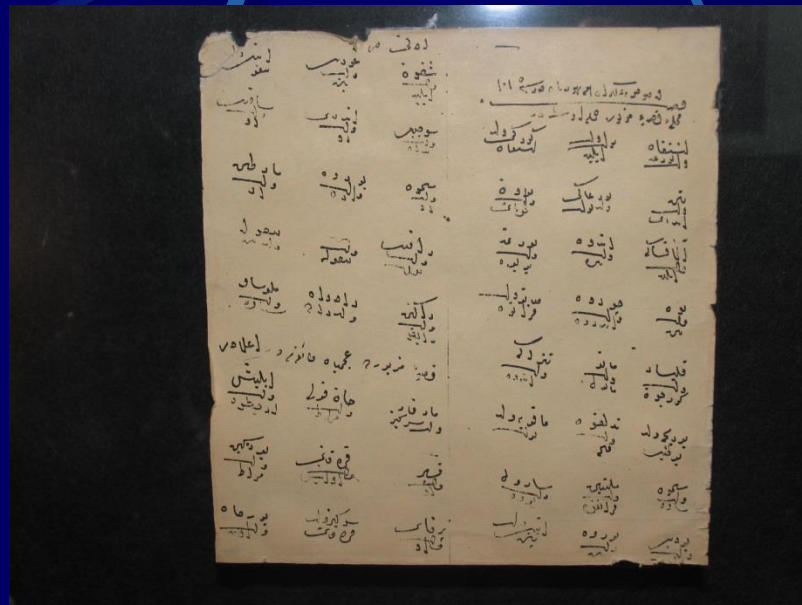
First and second floor display artifacts in chronological order, beginning with the first signs of human life in Dobrudja in *prehistoric* times, ending with samples of *contemporary history*.



Latin inscriptions



Oriental medieval inscriptions

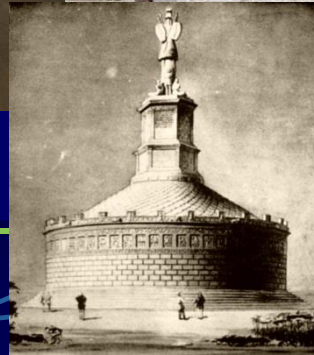
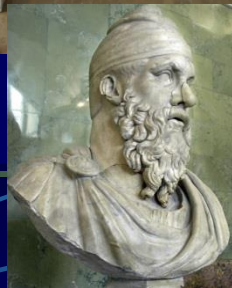


Each year MINAC also organizes temporary exhibitions with artifacts from other museums from Romania or from abroad, as well as exhibitions which display the most important archaeological findings from each excavation campaign.

Besides Constanta headquarters, MINAC also disposes of regional museums in different places of Constanta County. They are usually placed next to archaeological sites included in Dobrudjan touristic itineraries.



TROPAEUM TRAIANI MUSEUM AND MONUMENT



HISTRIA MUSEUM



Local museums - Histria



- **Greek colony founded by colonists from Miletus at the middle of the 7th c. BC; uninterrupted history of more than 1300 years, until the 7th c. AD**
- **Under the Roman rule from the end of the 1st c. BC, it experiences a remarkable period of prosperity during the 2nd to 3rd c. AD**
- **Numerous inscriptions certify the presence of Roman colonists in a mostly Greek environment**
- **The rural territory (*regio Histriae*), attributed by the provincial authorities, is much more romanised, with confirmation of numerous Roman villages**
- **The visible monuments today are those from the Roman and Late Roman periods: massive enclosing walls, public edifices (basilicas, baths), markets, private luxury buildings, Early Christian churches**
- **The local museum - inaugurated in 1980 and restored in 2001**

HARSOVA MUSEUM



CERNAVODA MUSEUM



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

One of the most important activities MNHAC encourages and sustains is the *archaeological research*, which provides each year newly discovered artifacts that enrich its collections and its exhibition.

MNHAC manages its *own excavation sites*:
Albești, Histria, Tropaeum Traiani, Capidava, Altinum, Carsium, Ulmetum and Sacidava.

Albești – a hellenistic rural Settlement close to Callatis



HISTRIA



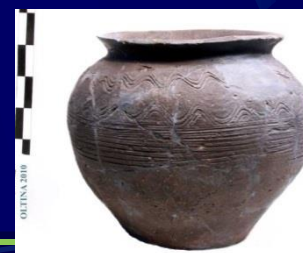
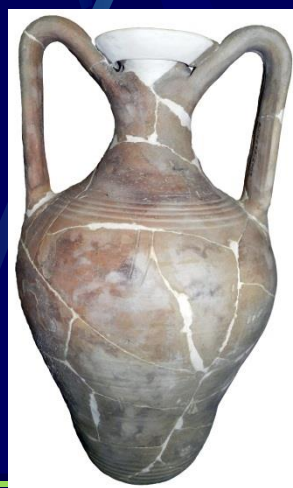
MNHAC also collaborates with teams of archaeologists from all around the country on Dobroudjan sites scientific managed by Archaeological Institute “Vasile Pârvan” or other Romanian institutions.



TROPAEUM TRAIANI/Adamclisi



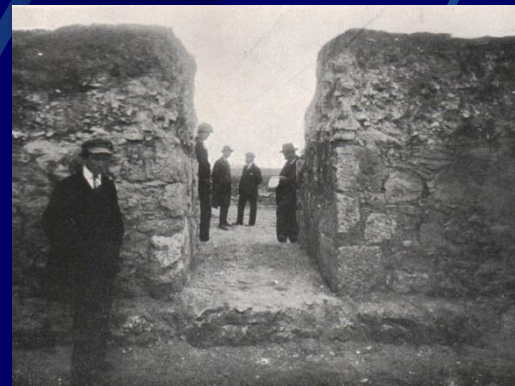
ALTINUM/Oltina



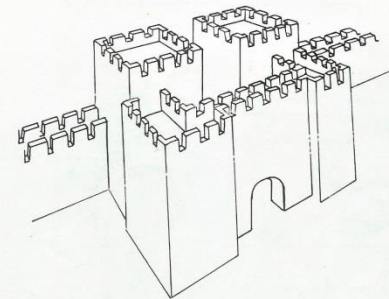
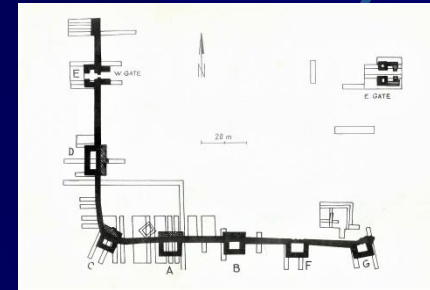
CARSIUM/Harsova



ULMETUM/Pantelimonu de Sus



SACIDAVA/Rasova



Sacidava. Reconstruction of the East Gate

ROMAN MOSAIC EDIFICE



Tomis - Late Roman period

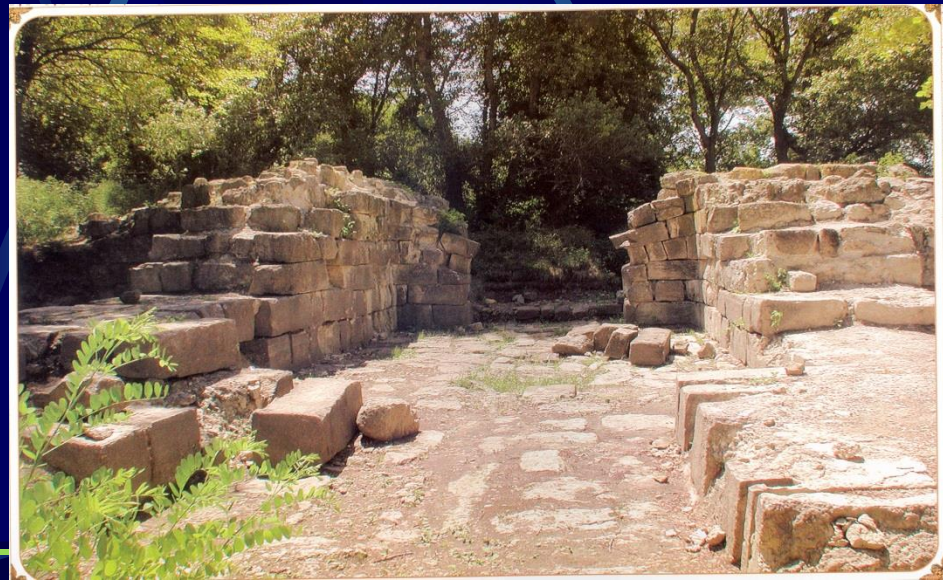
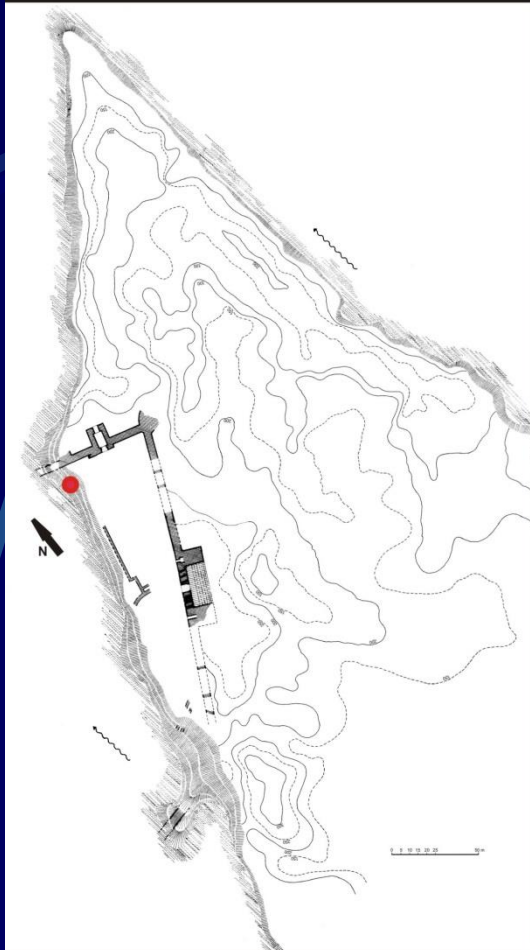
-painted funeral chamber (4th c. AD)-



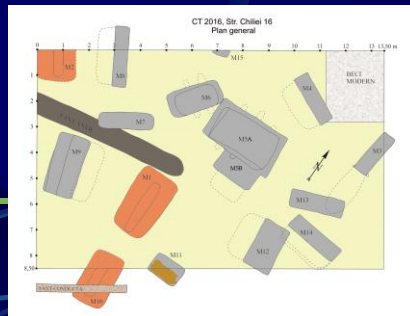
CAVE CHURCHES COMPLEX/Murfatlar



PACUIUL LUI SOARE/Lipnita



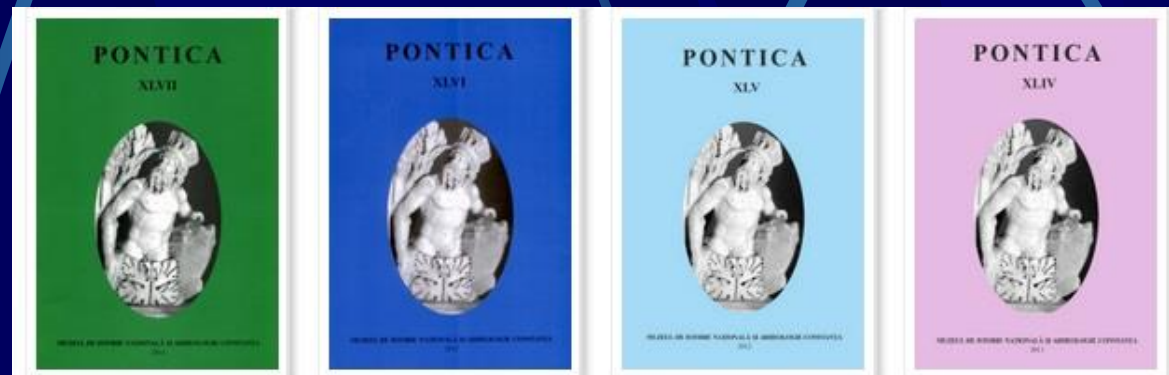
Preventive archaeological diggings



MNHAC also encourages the dissemination of information obtained during each research by organizing each year the *National Symposium Pontica* and by its *editorial activity*.

•In the last few years *the symposium* also hosted participants from England, Poland, Turkey, Bugaria etc.

The *annual journal, Pontica*, has been published constantly, without interruption, since 1968. The main themes approached in our journal are related to Dobroudja and territories involved in political relations or economic, cultural changes with its historical centers, during prehistoric, ancient and medieval periods.



An exchange program established with over 200 institutions and institutes from Romania and from abroad allows *Pontica* to reach in many libraries and databases and brings many publications to our library.

International and national projects (2021-2022)

MNHAC was involved as partner in several European funded projects, gaining a vast experience in cultural networking and boosting the local cultural tourism in scientific area etc.

MNHAC was involved in many projects, like partner, funded national and international:

- - Black Sea Archaeology, History and Culture Portal - ARHICUP (BSB867). The project “Black Sea Archaeology, History and Culture Portal – ARHICUP”, eMS code BSB-867, is funded by the program “Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020”, Priority Axis 1. Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin, Specific Objective 1.1. Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors. The objective of the ARHICUP project is to promote archaeological, historical, and cultural tourism in the western region of the Black Sea, by presenting the rich treasures of the heritage in a coherent way and using advanced web technologies.
- - "Common Cultural Heritage - A Source of Entrepreneurship Development in the Black Sea Basin", TREASURE, eMS code BSB-371, Joint Operational Programme for CBC under the ENI „Black Sea Basin 2014 – 2020”. The general objective of the project was to jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and culture sectors in the partner regions of the Black Sea Basin.
- - Restoring the common heritage and promoting the common tourist product, Hamangia - The first civilization of Old Europe, code ROBG-407, within the Interreg VA Romania-Bulgaria Program, Priority Axis 2. A green region, Specific objective 2.1. Improving the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources and heritage. The general objective of the project is the joint capitalization of the cultural heritage - Hamangia Culture, in Romanian **and Bulgarian Dobrogea, through joint actions of conservation and promotion of vestiges, artifacts and common information specific to Hamangia culture, in order to develop the common integrated tourism product "Hamangia"**.
- There are several projects to be added regarding interdisciplinary research on various heritage objects (Scientific cooperation JINR-Romania; IBR-2, Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research) and others won at the administration of the Romania Cultural Fund.



THANK YOU FOR YOURS ATTENTION!

