

studies such as Hațeg-Orăștie, Târgu Secuiesc valley or the Sighișoara-Șaeș-Heitur. These cases point out some characteristics of artefact distribution like separating gold and silver pieces both in inventories and in territories and concentration of discoveries either concentrically around certain settlements or linear around access routes.

The thesis ends with a brief but eloquent chapter of conclusions (Chapter XIV, *Dacian precious metalwork, an original way of cultural expression. Conclusions*, pp. 162-166) and a very interesting *excursus* about the very recent discovery of the golden bracelets from Grădiștea de Munte. There are also two detailed summaries in English and German (pp. 179-212), an artefact and discoveries catalogue (pp. 231-255) and an impressive bibliographical list (pp. 259-276). The written part is completed by 195 illustrations of remarkable quality depicting most of the silver and gold known artefacts which the author has drawn using the original pieces (approximately 800 pieces).

Last, but not least we have to acknowledge the impeccable methodological approach of the subject in a clear, elegant and pragmatic style that makes the thesis an enjoyable reading. It is obviously the result of hard work, it demonstrates professionalism and it can be therefore considered one of the most remarkable achievements of the Romanian pre- and protohistorical archaeological literature of the last years. It is a valuable resource with a well founded contribution to the study of ancient Dacian civilization on one hand and to the general phenomena of prehistorical votive deposits on the other.

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Irina Băldescu, TRANSILVANIA MEDIEVALĂ. TOPOGRAFIE ȘI NORME JURIDICE ALE CETĂȚILOR SIBIU, BISTRIȚA, BRAȘOV, CLUJ. Editura Simetria, București 2012, 367 pages, 205 figures, ISBN: 978-973-1872-25-4

The volume published in Romania is a revised version of the PhD thesis defended by Irina Băldescu in 2004 at Sapienza University in Rome, under the guidance of Professor Enrico Guidoni, who is also the author of the preface of the Italian edition from 2005.

The work is divided in three parts, firstly referring to general themes of urban development concerning the territory and the settlements founded by the Saxon colonists, who came to Transylvania beginning with the twelfth century, following the invitation of the Hungarian royalty. The second part consists of the inventory cards of Sibiu, Bistrița, Brașov, Cluj, and the last one is a documentary apparatus containing prescriptions of the statutes discussed in the book. Each chapter is accompanied by an English summary.

The text is richly illustrated with photographs,

maps, historical surveys, and original proposals of reconstruction of the urban development of the four cities, treated as case studies: hypotheses regarding the geometric interpretation of streetscape and plot system, reconstruction of urban topography, alignment between streets and defensive towers, interpretation of the fortifications geometry and others. Noteworthy are the mid eighteenth century plans of the Transylvanian cities and monuments, preserved in the archives in Vienna, which are published for the first time here, and used in certain cases for recovering the original lost configurations of the streets.

From the preamble, consisting of a short presentation, three prefaces and a foreword, one learns that the work applies the research method of the “school of Rome”, developed by the coordinator of the thesis, Enrico Guidoni, the author of the works *La campagna e l'origine dello spazzio* (1972), respectively *La città e gli ordini mendicanti* (1992). Ugo Soragni completes that “the model of analysis defined in studying Italian cities (...)”, based on “a thematic grid of ordering the historical information and a re-elaboration of cartographic and cadastral sources” was used, while Nicolae Lascu underlines “the new methods of investigation”, which could lead “to unexpected perspectives and meanings”.

A first observation is due to Professor Guidoni and concerns the documents used that are “generally successive to the considered period”. Most written sources date, indeed, after the middle of the sixteenth century and reflect, at least in part, the new historical reality of Transylvania after 1541, when it was proclaimed as an autonomous principality under Turkish suzerainty. In the following years, the Catholic population adopted the Reformation and the values of Humanism exalted during Renaissance, which determined, among others, the taste for collecting antiquities and the nomination of Transylvania as Dacia. We thus understand that the author considers the period of Middle Age in Transylvania stretching until the end of the seventeenth century (p. 218).

The author analyzes the *Roman heritage and the medieval territorial structures*, trying to detect the relationship between the new settlements founded in the Middle Ages and the Ancient ones. Besides the practical reason of reusing *spolia* taken from the pagan ruins as raw material by the Christian colonists, it is several times mentioned the magical-apotropaic dimension of this act, statement not explained by Irina Băldescu. The study of O. Mittelstrass (1961) regarding the network of Roman streets in Transylvania is completed with information from additional documentary sources, new medieval roads are being included in the debate.

The chapter *Juridical culture: the determination of the normative behavior* is the most original part of the book, reflecting the civic obligations for the welfare of the city through the corpus of Saxon regulation consisting of the