

“LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU
FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PATRIMONY
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND VALORIFICATION
OF THE TRANSYLVANIAN PATRIMONY IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS

IX



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IX

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**NEOLITHIC AND COPPER AGE SIGNS
- METHODOLOGY OF TRANSLATIONS**

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***Keywords:** translation, signs, symbols, Neolithic, Copper Age, Romania.*

***Abstract:** The purpose of this article is to present the methodology of the translations made in the F-MU.S.EU.M. Project, concerning the topic of Neo-Eneolithic signs on the territory of Romania. Furthermore, a new research project regarding translations is presented, with the inclusion of its preliminary bibliography.*

Introduction

In March 2009, I applied for and obtained the F-MU.S.EU.M. grant regarding the Neolithic and Copper Age signs in Romania. The project implied several tasks, such as:

1. Gathering and scanning the Romanian (possibly Hungarian) bibliography (articles, books and chapters of books) concerning the topic of Neo-Eneolithic signs.
2. Selecting the key pages related to this topic from the gathered bibliography.
3. Translating into English the selected pages/excerpts.
4. Organizing the selected and translated pages according to sub-topics.

The resulted work is to be published on the website of the F-MU.S.EU.M. Project (<http://europeanvirtualmuseum.net/>).

Translation – steps and problems

The translated Romanian articles were initially selected from the bibliography of Marco Merlini's PhD thesis - "An Inquiry into the Danube Script". They were searched at the library and then scanned at a minimum of 300 dpi. The scanned parts consisted of cover and contents (until the page the title is mentioned on) of the journal/book, the article/excerpt itself and, in some cases, the plates and drawings belonging to the article/excerpt. Next, the scanned documents were edited using Corel Photo Paint X3 in order to improve the quality of the images by adjusting the brightness of the image, removing the unwanted additional parts resulted while scanning, etc.

The process of scanning and editing was followed by the translation of the selected articles and excerpts (including the footnotes/endnotes), which sometimes

proved to be quite difficult. The main reason for this is that it was the first time I was confronted with the translation of scientific articles which, in order to avoid confusion and misunderstandings, required the use and knowledge of exact and precise scientific terms from the field of archaeology. During my work, I used dictionaries such as “Concise Dictionary of Archaeology”, “Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture”; among them there were also several useful online dictionaries, such as YourDictionary.com, Dictionary.com, bab.La and Everest.

The next step involved finding a modality through which the original scanned and modified document and the translated Word Document version could be combined in an attractive and easy-to-read way. Therefore, Corel Draw X3 proved to be the most suitable to fulfill the above-mentioned targets. It enabled me to insert the scanned image in an A4 page, adjust the paper width from 210 mm to 410 mm, place the scanned image on the left side of the Corel page and start adding new pages in order to comprise the entire article. The translated fragments were then taken from the Word document and placed next to the original paragraphs, on the right side of each Corel page. It is important to mention that text characteristics such as Font (font, font style, size, font colour), Paragraph (i.e., line spacing) and page layout, must coincide both in the original and translated article.

The first page of the future document is extremely important, since it presents the following: the scanned cover of the journal on the left side of the Corel page, brief information about the project itself (theme of the project - Neolithic and Copper Age signs, name of translator, the web page link of F-MU.S.EU.M.), general information about the translated article (article title in English, name of author, name, number and year of journal, the article’s number of pages) or excerpt (book title, excerpt title, author of book, year and place of publication, publisher, pages on which the excerpt can be found), an abstract and the marks of the F-MU.S.EU.M. Project on the right side of the page.

Lastly, the created Corel Draw X3 document was exported into a final PDF document which was improved by several actions: OCR recognition (select from the toolbar of the Adobe document: Document - OCR Text Recognition - Recognize Text Using OCR - All pages - Edit - Primary OCR Language - select Romanian or Hungarian diacritics) and modification of the document properties (select from the toolbar of the Adobe document: File - Properties - Description: we add the title and author of article, the subject of the project - Neolithic and Copper Age signs - and the keywords of the article).

As a result, I translated the following articles: **Ion Aldea** - „Altarul” magico-ritual descoperit în aşezarea neolitică de la Ghirbom (com. Berghin, jud. Alba); **Dumitru Berciu** -Contribuții la problemele neoliticului în România în lumina noilor cercetări (pp. 507-509: Problema plasticii culturii Boian și descoperirile de la Tangîru); **Vasile Chirica** - Amuleta-pendantiv de la Mitoc, jud. Botoșani and Datarea prin C₁₄ a unor locuiri gravetiene de la Mitoc-Malul Galben (com. Mitoc, jud. Botoșani); **Vladimir Dumitrescu** - Inscripțiuni preistorice în România?; **Gruia Fazecaș** - O tăbliță de lut de la Suplacu de Barcău; **Iuliu Paul** - Cultura

Petrești (pp. 110-115); **Gheorghe Lazarovici** - Arhitectura neoliticului și epocii cuprului din România (pp. 198-207: Groapa rituală sau mormântul de la Tărtăria) and Despre simbolistica focului în neolitic (unpublished article); **Sabin Adrian Luca, Ion Dragomir** - Date cu privire la o statueta inedită de la Liubcova-Ornița (jud. Caraș-Severin); **Anton Nițu** - Despre semnificația motivului pictural în formă de „casă” de la Turdaș; **Márton Roska** - Erdély Régészeti Repertórium I. Óskor (pp. 7-15: Tordos, 806-817); **Nicolae Ursulescu** - Dovezi ale unei simbolistici a numerelor în cultura Precucuteni; **Nicolae Ursulescu et alii** - Noi date privind complexele de cult din cultura Precucuteni; **Nicolae Vlassa** - Probleme ale cronologiei neoliticului mijlociu în lumina stratigrafiei așezării de la Tărtăria, Contribuții la problema racordării cronologiei relative a neoliticului Transilvaniei la cronologia absolută a Orientului Apropiat, Noi contribuții la problema influențelor orientale în neoliticul Transilvaniei and „Căsuțele de cult de la Tudaș”. In addition to this, I also reviewed several English articles - including the ones written by Romanian authors from the "Signs and Symbols from Danube Neolithic and Eneolithic" volume - which I completed with an abstract and prepared for the F-MU.S.EU.M. website in the same way and style as the others: **Radian-Romus Andreescu** - The sign: typology, context, meaning; **Lazarovici Cornelia-Magda** - Clay breads and tablets with signs and symbols; **Lazarovici Gheorghe** - Are the Tărtăria tablets an "enigma"?; **Attila László** - Some aspects of the Tărtăria issue; **Luca Sabin Adrian** - A new special discovery from Turdaș; **Luca et alii** - Incised amulet from Turdaș-Luncă archaeological excavation; **Nicolae Ursulescu, Felix Adrian Tencariu** - Symbolic signs on the ceramics of the Chalcolithic settlement from Isaiia (Iași county, Romania).

Future projects

While being at the "Eötvös Lóránd" University of Budapest, as an Erasmus student during the 2009-2010 academic year, I intend to continue the process of translations regarding the theme of Neo-Eneolithic signs, but this time focusing on Hungarian articles and books. Starting from the bibliography of Marco Merlini's PhD thesis, I have already created a preliminary bibliographical list of articles to be translated:

Kalicz, Koós 2000 - Kalicz N., Koós J. S., *Újkőkori arcok edények a Kárpát-medence északkeleti részéből*. In: *A Hermann Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve* 39 (2000), 15-44.

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Kutzián 1944 - Kutzián I., *A Körös-kultúra*, Dissertationes Pannonicae, Ser. II, No. 23, Budapest (1944) (published Budapest 1947).

Orosz 1908 - Orosz E., *Újabban fölfedezett erdélyi őstelepek*. In: *Erdélyi Múzeum*, Cluj, 25 (1908), 259.

Reinecke 1898 - Reinecke P., *A tordosi őstelep agyagműveiről*. In: *Archaeologiai Értesítő*, 18 (1898), 94-103.

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Torma 1879 - Torma Zs., *Neolith kőkorszakbeli telepek Hunyad-megyében*. In: *Erdélyi Múzeum*, Cluj (1879): 129-155, 190-211.

Torma 1880 - Torma Zs., *A nándori barlangcsoportozat*. In: *Erdélyi Múzeum*, Cluj (1880), 153-171, 206-209.

Torma 1882 - Torma Zs., *Hunyad vármegye őskori történelméhez*. In: *A Hunyadmegyei Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat Évkönyve*, Deva (1882), 5-51.

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Abbreviations

- ActaMN* - Acta Musei Napocensis. Muzeul de Istorie al Transilvaniei, Cluj-Napoca.
Apulum - Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia.
Banatica - Banatica. Muzeul de Istorie al județului Caraș-Severin, Reșița.
BCMI - Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București.
MemAntiq - Memoria Antiquitatis. Muzeul de Istorie Piatra-Neamț, Piatra-Neamț.
Sargetia - Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SCIVA - Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, București.

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Everest (<http://www.free-soft.ro/everest/everest-ro.html>)
YourDictionary.com (<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>)

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