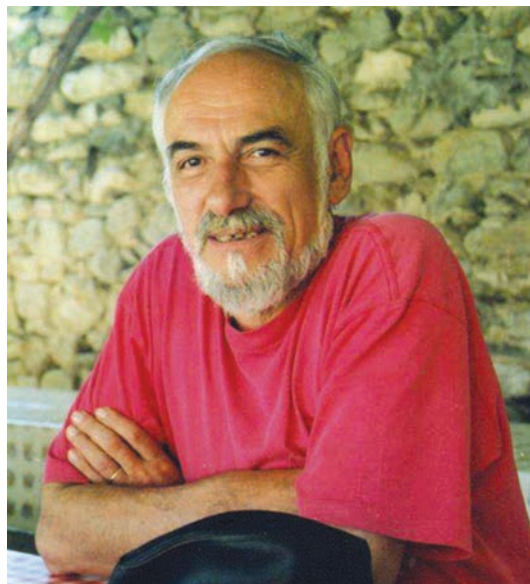


DR. DORIN ALICU (12.10.1948 – 27.07.2013)

Carissimo Amico, Amabili Collegae, Optimo Praesidi



Our beloved friend, kind colleague and, for those who worked under him, the best director, Dorin Alicu was above all a gifted field archaeologist: he had a deep knowledge of stratigraphy and an extraordinary intuition for discovering great monuments. He was due with a tremendous energy and great creativity.

Dorin Alicu was probably the best site director of his generation, a manager of great energy and efficiency. He devoted most of his life to the excavations of Roman Sarmizegetusa (in his native region), where he established himself in the last years of his life. In many years he spent more than a month on this site. Besides many structures, excavated in four decades of sustained work, he also left behind several monuments restored under his guidance. For 41 years he served the National History Museum of Transylvania, starting as a simple museologist and reaching the position of vice director of this prestigious unit. Dorin Alicu was also an extremely prolific author who produced not less than 14 books. He also coordinated other 7 volumes and catalogues, and above all he published almost 100 scientific articles, studies and archaeological reports. Along with his mentor and friend, the late professor Hadrian Daicoviciu, he initiated at Sarmizegetusa the first international excavations in Romania, cooperating mainly with British and Swiss scholars and students, which helped improving the excavation techniques and methods used until then. These excavations served as a school for several generations of students and young archaeologists, including myself. Dorin Alicu

also organized several summer camps for young archaeologists in Sarmizegetusa which proved over the years to have had an exceptional public impact.

Dorin Alicu was born in the village of Râu Bărbat, in the neighborhood of Roman Sarmizegetusa, from an old respected family in the region. He was educated in the town of Lupeni and, after graduating in 1972 the Faculty of History and Archaeology of the Babeș-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, he was employed at the National History Museum of Transylvania from Cluj-Napoca. After four decades he retired from here a few months before dying in 2013. Between 1983 and 1989 he was appointed director of the Regional Laboratory of Restoration of the same museum, a function he fulfilled again between 1993 and 2013. In 1992 he became head of the Department of Roman Archaeology and in 1993 vice director of the same National History Museum of Transylvania. In 1997 Dorin Alicu became senior museologist, after obtaining the PhD title with a paper on Roman architecture in Dacia Superior, with special reference to the amphitheaters.

Starting with 1973 and till the end of his life he yearly performed excavations at Sarmizegetusa, first under the direction of Hadrian Daicoviciu, then of Ștefan Pascu, and after 1989, as director of the site (or part of it), sharing and alternating this responsibility with Ioan Piso. Dorin Alicu was the effective director of the excavations of the temples north of the Roman town: Liber Pater, Aesculapius and Hygeia, the temple of Silvanus and the so called "Great Temple" (where he worked with H. Daicoviciu, C. Pop, A. Rusu-Pescaru, E. Nemeș, I. Piso). He also initiated the excavations at the residence of the financial governor of Dacia Apulensis. Among other sites he conducted excavations at several private buildings in the vicinity of the amphitheater, including a glass workshop, a *thermopolium* and a water mill. His main achievement was the re-excavating of the amphitheater and the discovery of the traces of the timber phase of this imposing structure, where he cooperated with his younger colleagues from the National History Museum of Transylvania, dr. Emilian Bota and Victor Popa. He also re-investigated the nearby temple of Nemesis, with dr. Emilian Bota and dr. Carmen Ciongradi. In the last years he excavated with dr. Gică Băeștean from the local museum several houses in the *insula* west to the *forum*. All these excavations were published and the structures were consolidated and partly restored, thus making of Dorin Alicu one of the most responsible and successful archaeologists of his generation.

He also executed archaeological research in the Roman small town of Micia (Hunedoara county), in the *villa* at Chinteni (Cluj county) and coordinated the rescue excavations at Polus Centre near Cluj-Napoca.

The scientific activity of Dorin Alicu was equally prolific. His main field of expertise was Roman provincial architecture, and in this respect he produced a consistent monograph on the amphitheater of Sarmizegetusa (*Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa. Amfiteatrul. I. Monografie arheologică*, Cluj-Napoca 1997), followed by a more general book on the amphitheaters of Roman Dacia (with C. Opreanu, *Les amphithéâtres de la Dacie romaine*, Cluj-Napoca 2000). He also published several archaeological reports and articles on the temples of Sarmizegetusa (some with H. Daicoviciu, in *ActaMN*, 18, 1981, 59–84 and *ActaMN*, 19, 1982, 59–74, others alone, such as on the temple of Apollo from Tibiscum, in *Tibiscus*, 10, 2000, 299–304 and on the

Mithras temple from Pojejena, in *Sargetia*, 28, 1999–2000, 219–220, or the temples from Micia, in vol. *Studia archaeologica et historica Nicolao Gudea dicata: omagiu Profesorului Nicolae Gudea la 60 de ani*, Zalău 2001, 219–224 and in *ActaMN*, 38, I, 2001, 155–159, *Apulum*, 39, 2002, 201–235 and *Banatica*, 16/I, 2003, 231–244). These studies were followed by the general book on cult buildings from Roman Dacia (together with A. Rusu-Pescaru, *Templele romane din Dacia* (I), Cluj-Napoca 2000). The guide of the site of Roman Sarmizegetusa (with H. Daicoviciu, *Colonia Ulpia Traiana Dacica Sarmizegetusa*, Bucureşti 1984), the analysis of the urban and demographic development of the same place (together with A. Paki, *Town Planning and Population of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, Oxford BAR, internat. series 605, 1995) and the first volume of the monograph of Roman Micia (*Micia, I*, Cluj-Napoca 2004), all illustrate his broader interest for Roman urbanism.

Dorin Alicu was not only concerned with monumental structures, he also dealt with archaeological material, including the small finds. He has the merit of publishing the stone and bronze figured monuments from Sarmizegetusa (together with C. Pop and V. Wollmann, *Figured Monuments from Sarmizegetusa*, BAR, internat. series 55, Oxford 1979), the lamps from the same site (a first volume with E. Nemeş, followed by other two volumes of himself, which became a reference in the field, *Roman Lamps from Ulpia Traiana*, BAR int. ser. 18, Oxford 1977; *Opaiţe romane. Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa / Die römischen Lampen. Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, Bucureşti 1994; *Die römischen Lampen von Sarmizegetusa. I. Funde der Jahre 1881–1976*, Zalău 2006), and the small finds from the old excavations of the same site (with S. Cociş, A. Soroceanu, C. Ilieş, *Small Finds from Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, Cluj-Napoca 1994). Dorin Alicu devoted himself to the education of the great public too, producing a general book on Roman medicine (together with I. H. Crişan, *Medicina la romani*, Cluj-Napoca 2003), editing exhibition guides and catalogues, and initiating publishing for young people, such as the series on archaeology for children.

The national and international prestige of Dorin Alicu as well as the appreciation of his colleagues and former pupils took shape in the volume *Studia Archaeologica et Historica in Honorem Magistri Dorin Alicu* (ed. V. Rusu-Bolindeţ, T. Sălăgean, R. Varga), Cluj-Napoca 2010 (with 36 contributions).

Dorin Alicu died three days after his colleague, Dan Isac. He was just assisting us in the reopening of the excavations of the so called “Great Temple” from Sarmizegetusa. He was also supervising the rescue excavations due to the development projects around the site. We all regret his early and sudden departure from this world. We will always miss him, especially the excavators of Roman Sarmizegetusa, who would have loved to benefit more from his exceptional expertise of this site, and on archaeology in general. He is equally regretted by his many friends from the counties of Hunedoara and Cluj who will never benefit again of his warm hospitality. Without him Sarmizegetusa will never be the same.

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