

FOREWORD TO THE NEW SERIES

The general aim of the promoters of Thraco-Dacica, The Romanian Academy and the Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan" from Bucharest -Romania has been already explained in a Foreword of the first number of the Journal; but it may be well in our first number of the New Series, which resumes after many years the publication, briefly to point the new directions of the Journal, and the results which we hope may follow from its second establishment. As regards its subject-matter, the Journal will deal with all that concerns the study of the history, archaeology, language and art of the Thracian world from the earliest times (16th century B.C.E.) down to about C.E. 700, as well as with the history of pre-historical and classical scholarship up to the present time. Papers are intended to make a fresh and significant contribution to the understanding of the Thracian world in its largest acceptance and to stimulate further discussion. Oriental languages and history, and general or comparative philology, will be included only in so far as they are directly related to the languages and history of Thraco-Dacians.

It is evident that it will be necessary to define our subject still further if it is to be brought within reasonable compass, so as to admit of thorough treatment in the pages of Thraco-Dacica. This limitation we hope to gain, in the first place, by taking as our starting point and chief concern the interpretation of the archaeological evidence and the ancient texts. Another limitation will arise out of our manner of treating the subject. Our aim is not so much to provide original matter as to supply an index and chronicle of all that is being done in the field of Thracology. It is thought that a publication based on these lines will supply a real want which has long been felt in this country. Whereas in Bulgaria, for example, there are a multitude of periodicals devoted to the exclusive study of Thracian Antiquity, some of them coming out as often as once at each semester, Romanian scholarship has produced since 2002 up to the present time no single periodical of frequent or even regular issue which devotes itself to the different requirements of students in Thracian world. For notes and news of historical and archaeological interest, as well as for reviews of books, scholars have had to depend almost entirely on other journals of history and archaeology, in which only a very limited space could be allotted to any special department. We hope then to make THRACO-DACICA a critical record of the work of the year, so far as regards Romanian publications.

Acad. Alexandru Vulpe

Director of the Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan", Bucharest