

**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION
“1 DECEMBRIE 1918” UNIVERSITY OF ALBA IULIA
FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOLOGY
DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF HISTORY**

**PhD THESIS
(ABSTRACT)**

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**ALBA IULIA
2017**

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**HISTORICAL MILESTONES IN THE RESEARCH
OF THE CULTURAL PATRIMONY IN ALBA IULIA -
PROPOSALS FOR THE PROTECTION AND THE
CAPITALISATION OF THE HISTORIC
MONUMENTS AND OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITES**

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KEY WORDS: Alba Iulia, “Alba Carolina” Vauban Fortress, national cultural patrimony, list of historic monuments, national archaeological repertoire, historic monument, protected area, archaeological site, preventive archaeological research, museum, museum collection.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

The cultural patrimony, in its variety of manifesting forms, includes all the elements resulted from the interaction, in time, between the human factors and the natural factors. These forms of manifestation can be material or immaterial, tangible or intangible.

National and international organisms and institutions are dedicated to the problem of the cultural patrimony. In time, they elaborated laws and normative acts with the aim of defining the concept of cultural patrimony and to establish principles and rigorous regulations related to the recognition, protection and capitalisation of the cultural patrimony.

The present thesis approaches and intends to respond to the problem of the cultural patrimony in Alba Iulia, from the point of view of the research, protection and capitalisation of the historical monuments and of the archaeological sites. Thus, we will present and capitalise the tangible elements of the cultural patrimony, meaning their forms of material manifestation. The preoccupations of the contemporary society for durable development and the protection of the environment determined a new conceptualisation of the term of “cultural patrimony” and, implicitly, of the categories of the cultural patrimony, e.g. the archaeological patrimony and the architectural patrimony. Usually, these categories of the cultural patrimony are defined as archaeological sites and historic monuments/buildings, in their integrity (as well the immobile and the mobile elements). The archaeological patrimony defines the totality of vestiges, meaning fix material elements and the artefacts, the mobile material elements, reunited under the form of testimonies of the past, “buried” in the ground, belonging to various epochs and historical periods.

The architectural patrimony or the buildings which are historic monuments, as defined in the contemporary cultural language, represents the material elements of the patrimony built privately or publicly, laic or religiously, with all its immobile and mobile elements. The contemporary notion of cultural patrimony (archaeological and architectural) is rooted in the Classical Antiquity of the Roman world, where we meet the term *patrimonium Caesaris* (emperor’s patrimony).

From a methodologic point of view, the thesis is built on two corridors: an approach from a historiographic perspective, presented in the text, organised in chapters, completed

with a data base, organised on the fields of archaeology, historic monuments and legislation.

The following resources were used for the elaboration of our thesis:

- General works related to the protection of the cultural patrimony;
- Studies and general works related to the national cultural patrimony on the administrative territory of Alba Iulia;
- National and international legislation related to the protection of the cultural patrimony;
- Unedited documents from the archive of the Ministry of Culture – Direction of Cultural Patrimony;
- Unedited documents from the archive of Alba County Direction for Culture ;
- Studies and technical projects from the archives of the City Hall of Alba Iulia, The National Museum of Union Alba Iulia and University “1 Decembrie 1918” of Alba Iulia.

Subchapter 1.3 presents definitions and specific notions for the architectural, archaeological and urbanistic concepts we used in our paper. Firstly, it is defined the notion of monument, a concept around which we built the present thesis: *Historical milestones in the research of the cultural patrimony in Alba Iulia – Proposals for the protection and the capitalisation of the historic monuments and of the archaeological sites*. We explain the terms of: assembly, site, landscape, built area, protected built area, protection area, administrative territory, metropolitan area, unincorporated area, certification/ approval, technical project, building/demolition authorisation and necropolis.

CHAPTER 2

REPERTOIRE OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ON THE TERRITORY OF ALBA IULIA

There are 60 pages in our thesis dedicated to the historic monuments on the administrative territory of Alba Iulia. Our repertoire includes 106 items grouped in four categories, as follows:

- I Archaeological monuments: 8 items;
- II Architectural monuments: 92 items;

- III Public forum monuments: 4 items;
- IV Memorial and funerary monuments: 2 items.

Subchapter 2.1, *Archaeological monuments*, presents the archaeological sites under the form of a short history of the archaeological research. We analysed in the same manner the archaeological sites which are not included on the List of Historic Monuments (LHM), but which are registered in the National Archaeological Repertoire (NAR) and are protected according OG 43/2000 related to the protection of the archaeological patrimony, considered to be part of the national cultural patrimony.

Subchapter 2.2, *Architectural monuments*, presents 92 items: 19 items from category A, of national importance and 73 items from category B, of local importance. When necessary, we mentioned the interventions, for rehabilitation or conservation, with references to the related projects, approved by the Ministry of Culture or by Alba County Direction for Culture. It is important to mention that all the approvals from the period 1991-2017 are presented in Annex III of the thesis.

CHAPTER 3

THE HISTORY OF THE PREOCCUPATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN ALBA IULIA

The first part of this chapter treats the problem of the origins and the evolution of the concept of protection of the historic monuments. Fully conceptualised at the end of the modern era, the (cultural) patrimony presents a long history of the evolution of the term, from the simple indication of the antiquities so much admired during the Renaissance to the complex notion of archaeological patrimony/ architectural patrimony, which are used nowadays in the majority of the legal provisions and in the international and national provisions for good practice. There are few words in the contemporary language to have the evoking power intrinsic associated to the term of patrimony, in its vast significance.

Subchapter 3.2 approaches the theme of the cultural patrimony in Alba Iulia in the context of the historical evolution of Transylvania during the 15th-20th centuries. We evoked personalities who, through their activity and decisions, had an important role in protecting and preserving the Transylvanian cultural patrimony, i.e. Ioannes Mezerius (a prebendary in Alba Iulia), Pierre Lescdopier (a French traveller), Gáspár Heltai, Martin

Opitz (a teacher in the gymnasium from Alba Iulia during the period when Prince Gabriel Bethlen ruled), Giuseppe Ariosti (an Italian noble man, captain in the Austrian army), and Theodor Mommsen, a famous Latin epigraphist, who includes the Roman inscriptions from Transylvania, especially those from Apulum, in the monumental work entitled *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*.

Subchapters 3.3 and 3.4 approach the problem of the protection of the archaeological and architectural patrimony in Romania in the inter-war period and during the communist regime.

CHAPTER 4

LEGISLATION, STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE ELABORATION OF THE DOCUMENTATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND THE RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND SITES

The first part of the chapter presents the international legal frame related to the protection of the cultural patrimony. At the beginning of the 20th century, it became more and more obvious the fact that it was necessary a replacement of the old forms of protection of the historic monuments and sites and of what was called, at those times, “national antiquities/vestiges” through more precise and specialised juridical regulations, aiming to establish the relations between the salvaging clauses, through various methods, of the archaeological patrimony and the development requirements of the urban and rural areas. The first reaction related to these legal provisions appears in the Anglo-Saxon world (USA and Great Britain) during the 60’s. In the next decade, the majority of the West-European countries, Canada and Australia adopted specific national legislation related to the land planning, in order to condition the beginning of the constructions by a preliminary archaeological research.

From the beginning of the 60’s, the important (public or private) development works, industrial or infrastructural, were considered a direct threat to the archaeological patrimony. In this context, the majority of the archaeologists adhered to the so-called “ethics of conservation”. Such an approach, generally accepted, is reflected by a series of international recommendations of good practice under the aegis UNESCO and ICOMOS.

Subchapter 4.2 refers to the legal regulations and the policies related to the protection of the historic monuments in Romania, mentioning synthetically the main normative acts and the role of the Commission for Historic Monuments for the protection of the national cultural patrimony. .

CHAPTER 5

ACTIONS AND MEASURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND THE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

This chapter is dedicated to a problem that becomes more and more complex, related to the identification, the prevention and the risk management for the historic monuments and the archaeological sites.

The historic monuments and the archaeological sites are the result of the human creation in time. They are materialised under the form of terrestrial architectural edifices (laic and religious architectural monuments) and also under the form of archaeological vestiges, buried or in the process of research, for their conservation and restoration.

One of the vital problems is the unaltered maintenance of the physical integrity of the historic monuments. Reaching this desiderate is possible only inside the concept of protection, conservation and restoration of historic monuments.

At the other pole, we must keep in mind the fact that, inevitably, the human creations are subject to natural effects and threats. Also, a series of human activities, lacking control, may have disastrous effects on the human creations. In other words, the historic monuments and the archaeological sites are subject to hazard, a concept that can be identified as an assembly or a sum of random actions or phenomena with destructive effects. In this context appear the notion and the concept of risk with several definitions, depending of the field of applicability. For the historic monuments, the risks take general or particular forms, meaning negative consequences until major degradation and even the physical disappearance.

Subchapters 5.2 and 5.3 presents aspects related to the analysis and the evaluation of the risks and the risk management for the historic monuments and the archaeological sites.

CHAPTER 6

THE CAPITALISATION OF THE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL PATRIMONY AND OF THE PUBLIC COLLECTIONS IN ALBA IULIA

In the natural and mandatory novelty, the scientific presentation of a historic monument cannot be separated by the problem of the capitalisation of the mobile patrimony produced by the archaeological sites and the architectural monuments, meaning the artefacts resulted after the archaeological research and the patrimony objects as integral part of architectural edifices.

We present the collection of the National Museum of Union from Alba Iulia, from its foundation in 1887-1888 until the present time. We evoke the activity and the personality of Adalbert Cserni, to whom is owed the beginnings of the collections and the organisation of the museum in Alba Iulia. We also evoke the custodians who managed the Museum of Union and present detailed aspects related to the organisation and the dimensions of the museum collections.

Subchapter 6.1.2 presents the collection of the Batthyaneum Library, starting with the presentation of the building, adapted to serve as library, and also the founders of the library: Bishop Ignatius Batthyani and Count Károly Gustáv Majláth, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Transylvania. We described the collection of the libraries: manuscripts, incunabula, old books, archive and documents, and the museum collection.

The museum collection of the Orthodox Archiepiscopate of Alba Iulia is described in subchapter 6.1.3. The collection was established as a result of the Law 63/1974, aiming to recover from the field the artistic values in the possession of the Orthodox Church. Initially, a deposit was created, accessible only to the specialists. The idea of organising a museum and expose the patrimonial objects is recent, after the year 2000, only the organising of a space being achieved so far. The acknowledgement of the difficulties to ensure an adequate micro-climate and some exposing modalities to the contemporary museum standards led to the inclusion of the collection in a project financed by a SEE Grant, through a partnership between the National Museum of Union of Alba Iulia, Alba County Council and the Museum of the University of Bergen (Norway). This project, which generated a new museum called “Museikon”, a section of the National Museum of

Union, required the moving in a modern deposit and the restoration of the objects selected for permanent exposition, the digitisation of the entire collection, accessible on the web site www.museikon.ro, and an ample effort for classifying the objects. There were classified 562 objects, among which there are 329 icons on wood or glass, 231 books, a cross and a frill. There are another 517 classification files in analysis to the National Commission of Museums and Collections. It was also an occasion to build electronic evidence, through the programme DOCPAT, which led to the conclusion that the Orthodox Archiepiscopate participates to Museikon collection with 2572 books, 952 icons, 32 crosses, 28 cult objects for various use and 7 fresco fragments, from a total of 5643 objects in the entire collection.

We also gave special attention to the academic public collection in the field of archaeology from the University “1 Decembrie 1918” of Alba Iulia, presented in subchapter 6.1.4. Until the present time, it is the only public archaeology collection in Alba County accredited based on the accreditation criteria and norms for museums and public collections. We present as follows the main pieces in the accreditation file. Through the Decision 4045/30.09.2008 of the National Commission of Museums and Collections, the prior approval was granted for the establishment of the *Academic Public Collection in the field of archaeology* in the University “1 Decembrie 1918” of Alba Iulia. The final accreditation was given in the meeting on the 27th of November 2012, when the National Commission of Museums and Collections emitted the Decision 2057/27.11.2012, approving the academic public collection, as a professional reward for the efforts of the academic specialists, a model for other academic institutions in Romania. The collection is remarkable not only as quantity, but especially as manner of foundation and presentation, responding to scientific and museum high standards.

The conclusions of our thesis present as preamble statistical data related to the dynamics of the archaeological research to a national level compared to those from Alba County and the town of Alba Iulia, for the period 2000-2016. These reports show the evolution in time and the weight to a national level detained by Alba Iulia in the field of the protection of the archaeological patrimony. Thus, in 2007-2017 Alba County Direction for culture emitted a number of 450 certificates for archaeological discharge.

Constantly, starting in 2007, there are solicited notices especially for works to the historic monuments of local interests (B category) and their protection area. Under this aspect, we mention especially the notices for the construction of the modernisation of the

buildings destined to serve as residences, commercial spaces and offices. The statistical data confirm the fact that, starting in 2007, the population of the town presented a yearly growth rate of over 1,000 inhabitants, explaining the notice solicitations for investments including in the areas with archaeological and historical-architectural potential.

During the last years, the restoration works of the Vauban Fortress were recognised to international and national level through various prizes and distinctions. Thus, on the 1st of June 2012, the town of Alba Iulia was awarded the famous title of *European Destination of Excellence (EDEN)* by the European Commission through the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism. It was also awarded the Special Mention of the Jury from the Organisation EUROPA NOSTRA, to which Alba Iulia is member – associated partner.

The Roman-Catholic Cathedral of Alba Iulia, one of the most architectural monuments in Transylvania, is appreciated as a historic objective of European level. Starting with the year 2012, the cathedral was included in the tour *TRANSROMANICA – The Roman path of the European patrimony*.

In December 2014, Alba Iulia was awarded the first prize of the European Gala for Structural Financing, the section ‘welcoming people’. The prize was awarded by Jyrki Katainen, vice-president of the European Commission. Alba Iulia is in top 5 in Romania related to the index of cultural vitality.

The protection of the national cultural patrimony situated in the urban area, as it is in Alba Iulia, represents a real challenge not only for specialists, but most of all for the decisional factors, either political or institutional. The growing needs for space, modernisation and transformation, sometimes brutal, of the landscape have negative effects reflected many times in the authenticity and the integrity of the historic monuments. In the case of the archaeological sites from Alba Iulia, although numerous and very important, at the present time, with few exceptions, there were not created archaeological station type areas, perimeters where there are forbidden the urbanistic activities. The top position Alba Iulia has as number of preventive archaeological researches, especially in the last decade, proves most of all that the legislation for the protection of the archaeological patrimony is respected and implemented. In the same time, this phenomenon illustrates a concerning aspect, the fact that, at high speed, the number of archaeological vestiges *in situ* are irremediably affected through disappearance. On the other hand, the architectural patrimony is subject of structural degradation due to the abandonment of these objectives, e.g. the historic monument of residence type from the Downtown, whose homogeneity and

identity were irremediably affected by very brutal interventions especially during the communist regime. The archaeological and architectural patrimony from the perimeter of Alba Carolina Vauban Fortress and its protected area is a big success to national and international level and its story, beginning in the dawns of the Third Millennium, is continuing.

The thesis is completed by the following annexes:

- **Annex I.** List of reports for systematic and preventive archaeological research on the administrative territory of Alba Iulia, published in “Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice” (CCA) in 1989-2016.
- **Annex II.** Chronological list of Certificates of archaeological discharge emitted by Alba County Direction for Culture in 2007-2017.
- **Annex III**
 - Approvals for historic monuments emitted by the Ministry of Culture in the period 1991-2017.
 - Approvals for historic monuments emitted by Alba County Direction for Culture in the period 2007-2017.
- **Annex IV.** International and national legislation on the protection of the cultural patrimony.
- **Annex V.** The list of historic monuments 2015 – The town of Alba Iulia.
- **Annex VI.** The official documents on the accreditation and the activity of the Academic Public Collection in the field of archaeology from the University “1 Decembrie 1918” of Alba Iulia.

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