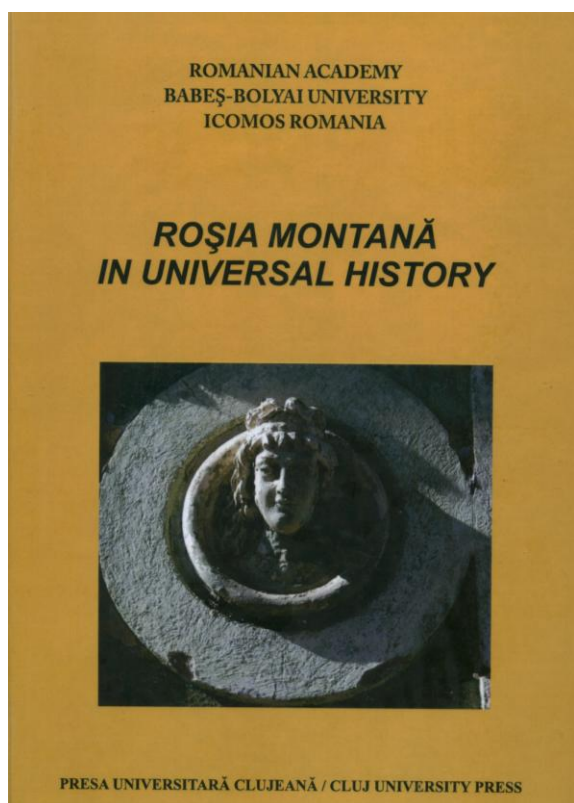


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The volume coordinated and edited by professor Pompei Cocean includes studies presented at the International Conference *Roșia Montană in Universal History*, which took place in Cluj-Napoca, on the 11th and 12th of November 2011, organised by the Romanian Academy, by the “Babeș-Bolyai” University, and by ICOMOS Romania.

This proceedings volume starts with a *Resolution* (pp. 7-10) of the Conference on *Roșia Montană*, having 16 conclusion entries addressed to “the Romanian authorities to take note of the authorised scientific opinions of the Romanian and foreign specialists, and to stop the already mentioned current project, which is extremely unfavourable to the interests of the Romanian people” (pp. 9-10).

In addition, academician Ionel Haiduc, President of the Romanian Academy, wrote the second document included in this volume, about the *Position of the Romanian Academy on the Gold Mining Project in the Apuseni Mountains* (pp. 11-12), where he strongly opposed the

implementation of the mining project: “We consider open-pit and short-term mining activities incompatible with the concept of *sustainable development*. The exploitation to exhaustion of some resources of strategic importance, in a short period of about two decades, is contrary to the interests of the country and must be avoided. Our generation has no right to deprive future generations of the opportunity to enjoy a part of the wealth of this country. The Romanian Academy considers that *the project does not represent a work of public interest for the benefit of the national economy* and does not justify its collateral effects or its associated risks” (p. 12).

This volume also includes as its main body a series of 22 papers advocating for the preservation of the human and natural patrimony of *Roșia Montană*. These are: “*The Gold Quadrilateral*” in the Apuseni Mountains, and the Gold-Silver Ores Mining Dilemma; *Roșia Montană Deposit and its Associated Mineral Substances*; *The Archaeological Patrimony of Roșia Montană*; *Roșia Montană: an Assessment of the Cultural Heritage*; *The Impact of Mining upon Environment in Roșia Montană*; *The Landscape and Environmental Risks Induced by the RMGC Project*; *Reflection upon the Usefulness of the Roșia Montană Project*; *The Truth about Roșia Montană Project*; *The Risks and the Alternatives of Roșia Montană Mining Project*; *The Hydrographical Network – Mobilisation Vector of Pollutants in Roșia Montană Area*; *General Climate Conditions in Roșia Montană Area*; *The Botanical and Anthropogenic Landscape of Roșia Montană (Apuseni Mountains, Romania)*; *Natural Reserves and the Biodiversity of Roșia Montană Area*; *Effect of Cyanide on the Soil Quality Principles for Territorial Development in the EU and the RMGC Project*; *Socializing Costs while Privatizing Benefits at Roșia Montană*; *Construction of Risk Regarding RMGC in the Romanian Written Press*; *The “Difficulty of Politics” and the Complex Problematic of the Gold Mining at Roșia Montană*; *Red Sludge Disaster in Hungary*; *Roșia Montană. A Discourse Analysis of the Main Actors Involved in the Project*; *Continuous Mining at Roșia Montană*; *Tourism – Coordinate of a Long-Term Sustainable Development in the Roșia Montană Area*; *Agriculture – A Complementary Economic Branch*.

The proceedings are valuable due to the diverse perspectives they offer. These are

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thoroughly researched, belonging to scientists from many fields, and therefore able to assess the impact of the mining project upon all components of the geographical system. That is why we consider these proceedings to treat the debated theme in an exhaustive manner, approaching subjects such as deposit and its associated mineral substances in the researched settlement; its archaeological patrimony and cultural heritage; impact of mining upon the environment; landscape and environmental risks; alternatives of the present mining project; the hydrographical network as a mobilisation vector of pollutants in the area; general climate conditions; the botanical and anthropogenic landscape; natural reserves and the biodiversity; soil quality; social costs; tourism seen as a coordinate of long-term sustainable development in the area; and agriculture as a complementary economic branch.

Authors belong to varied fields. They are geographers (regionalists, hydrologists, climatologists, pedologists), geologists (one of them in *Roşia Montană*), chemists, architects (including a conservation architect), archaeologists, economists, etc., most of them being professors, researchers, and PhD students, mainly from the Romanian university system (“Babeş-Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca: Faculty of Biology and Geology, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Faculty of European Studies, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Faculty of Geography; Bucharest University, Faculty of Political Science; “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest; West University of Timişoara; Banat University, Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (Timişoara); “Traian” Ecologic University (Deva, Hunedoara County), and also from abroad (e.g. Institute of Social Theory, University of Szeged, Hungary), together with representatives of the National Museum of Romanian History (Bucharest), of foundations (e.g. ADEPT Foundation, Saschiz, Mureş County) or of groups created in order to defend *Roşia Montană* (both patrimony and resources) and its inhabitants’ interests (e.g. The Group for Saving *Roşia Montană* in the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest).

Many well-known professors in their fields signed a significant number of studies in this volume and thus ensured a very good visibility of this editorial appearance and its important impact on the Romanian academia and on public opinion in general.

The authors shared the idea that the mining project for *Roşia Montană* brought multiple prejudices to all parties involved except the firm that supported exploitation and that was the reason why that project should not be implemented.

Roşia Montană in Universal History is a *manifesto* in which representative figures of the universities in Romania and abroad united their voices to make public the scientific reasons leading to the conclusion that the development strategy of *Roşia Montană* proposed through the RMGC Project “must be replaced with a *development plan* and with a *strategy for sustainable regional development*, while preserving its material and spiritual heritage of global value” (p. 10).

We recommend the proceedings of the International Conference *Roşia Montană in Universal History* to all those interested (public or private) in learning about the material and spiritual richness of a settlement in the heart of the Apuseni Mountains and why Romanian authorities should lose no more time and protect it and its people, as well as the heritage of the Romanians.

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