

REVIEWS / RECENZII

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Andrea Popa, *Managementul integrat al patrimoniului cultural mondial în România. Studiu de caz: Frontiera romană în Dacia. Siturile de epocă romană de la Brețcu, Comolău și Boroșneu Mare* [Integrated Management of World Cultural Heritage in Romania. Case Study: The Roman Frontier in Dacia. The Roman sites of Brețcu, Comolău, and Boroșneu Mare] (Sibiu: Editura ASTRA Museum, 2023), 279 p. ISBN 978-606-733-361-9

The book titled “Integrated Management of World Cultural Heritage in Romania. Case Study: The Roman Frontier in Dacia. The Roman sites of Brețcu, Comolău, and Boroșneu Mare” is the result of the effort of Ms. Andrea Popa, carried out within the Doctoral School of the University “Valahia” of Târgoviște, successfully defended in 2023. The monograph is structured in four parts: 1. Introduction; 2. Types of Roman sites. Components of the Roman Limes in Dacia from the UNESCO Tentative List. Case studies from the proposed research area; 3. Management of the Roman frontiers in Europe; 4. World Heritage Stakeholders in Romania, followed by Final Conclusions, Bibliography, Abstract in English, and some appendices, which complement very well the analytical part of it. Each chapter is made up of four to seven paragraphs, which reveal a successful structuring of the work.

1. The **introduction** covers various aspects of the subject, starting from the general framework of World Heritage, and particularly the 1972 UNESCO Convention, which has enabled the creation of a global system for the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage. The author of the thesis highlights the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and the obligation to ensure a functional management system for each site. The current UNESCO trends in this field are also outlined, focusing on the “five Cs”: credibility, conservation, communication, capacity-building, and communities, which are closely linked to the 17 global sustainable development goals. Thus, from global issues, the author moves to the situation in Romania, presenting the role of the Limes National Commission and the Limes National Programme in the preparation of the nomination of the Roman Limes of Dacia to the World Heritage List, as a component of the transnational serial site - Frontiers of the Roman Empire. At the same time, the author observes several gaps and contradictions in the field, which are impediments to the implementation of effective and sustainable measures for the management of the sites that are part of the Roman

Limes in Dacia. Thus, the research aimed to carry out a multidisciplinary study for sustainable management of the protection and valorisation of the cultural heritage in Romania, starting from the intention of inscribing the Roman Limes of Dacia on the World Heritage List. The work is innovative and topical, especially in the context of the nomination of the Roman Limes of Dacia on the World Heritage List.

2. In the second part, “Types of Roman sites. Components of the Roman Limes in Dacia from the UNESCO Tentative List. Case studies from the proposed research area” the author analyses both the typology of archaeological sites, components of the Roman Limes in Dacia on the World Heritage Tentative List, and their management. Thus, a representative site was selected for each identified category in south-eastern Transylvania: the Roman site of Brețcu, the Roman fortification of Comolău, and the Roman fortress of Boroșneu Mare. Each site was analysed according to criteria and structures based on the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, which allows us to have a detailed picture of their particularities and condition. Supplementing the description of each case study with the results of recent research further increases the value of the study and the justification for inclusion in the list of sites nominated for the World Heritage List. The discussion of the authenticity and integrity of each site is more than welcome in the context of arguing their outstanding universal value. Considering the UNESCO criteria and requirements, the author draws attention to the fact that none of the sites has a management plan, which would include a series of measures for research, conservation, promotion, and combating the factors affecting their condition, i.e. contributing to the deterioration of their integrity and authenticity. The conclusions at the end of the chapter draw attention to the specificities of each site, including issues of ownership, access, etc. The author also highlights the need for management plans and the role of stakeholders in the processes of managing and protecting this type of cultural heritage. Of course, the presentation of other case studies would have completed even better the picture of the Roman Limes in Dacia, but certainly, the main achievement of this chapter is the realization of the three case studies, which become a model for the preparation of site files and dossiers.

3. “The Management of Roman Borders in Europe” is a logical continuation of the first part of the paper, which examines several aspects of managing a cross-border site. This chapter helps us to better understand the complexity of this serial World Heritage property and its management, starting from the British model, later taken up by Germany, the Netherlands, etc. The description of the management system of Hadrian’s Wall, from where the Roman Borders in Europe project originates, demonstrates the effort and the approach to answer the problems of this site which, thanks to its efficient management, has succeeded in becoming an example and a stimulus for other sectors of the Roman limes. The description of the five management plans also demonstrates the continuity of this mechanism which has become a guarantor of effective protection and



management. The author also shows the problems faced by the site managers and stakeholders involved or interested in the Roman heritage in Britain. In this regard, Christopher Young's assertion that "Management plans aim to resolve potential conflicts between competing pressures from different uses..." explains very well the need for consensus in developing effective management strategies. The description of the Management Plans of The Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes (in German Obergermanisch-Raetischer Limes, or ORL) shows us how Germany developed its management system, as effective as the British one, in some places perhaps even more punctual. The author of the book notes very well the specificity of German management, showing the role of each institution involved or interested in this field - ownership, land use, the role of public administration, research institutions, setting needs and priorities, sustainable development vs. protection of sites, public awareness and involvement, etc. The lessons learned from the British and German experience are a roadmap for Romania in the preparation of the two nominations of the Roman Limes in Dacia and the Danube Limes to the World Heritage List. Thus, the author highlights at the end of this chapter "the need for a paradigm shift in the general approach to the future UNESCO monument in Romania, to create a unitary approach at the national level, but variable (with specific details) at local and/or regional level". I think that this part of the paper is very successful, welcoming, and useful for the Romanian environment, not only by showing the experience of other countries in organizing efficient management of some sectors of the Roman frontiers but also by highlighting some aspects worthy of consideration by people and institutions involved in the preparation of the nomination files of sites to the World Heritage List. More so the state submitting such a dossier is obliged to demonstrate the existence of management not only on paper but also in practice. But the current situation in Romania in this area leaves much to be desired. This is why chapter two is a set of lessons to be learned and taken on board by those involved in research, management, and promotion projects for the Roman borders in Romania.

4. "World Heritage Stakeholders in Romania" is an innovative analysis of the Romanian environment, because the author, starting from a general analysis of World Heritage management in Romania, discusses the important role of stakeholders and local communities in all the processes of management of this type of cultural heritage. At the beginning of the chapter, several theoretical and conceptual issues are discussed, which allow us to better understand the place, role, and importance of stakeholders, who are both individuals and organisations involved in the project/field or whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the execution or completion of the project. The author then moves on to analyse the role of internal and external stakeholders in the case of the Roman Limes in Dacia in terms of UNESCO criteria, requirements, and trends, such as the five Cs. The author also draws attention to the importance of strengthening the skills of all those involved in the management of World Heritage sites. To be even clearer in this approach, A. Popa analyses in the third part of this chapter

the identification and specificity of the stakeholders of the Roman Limes in Dacia based on the case studies presented in the first part of the book. The presentation of the steps to be followed in this process shows us the path that will ensure a transparent, participatory, and responsible process in the creation and development of an efficient management of cultural heritage in general and of the Roman Limes of Dacia in particular. The author demonstrates that only a multidisciplinary and integrated approach can bring long-lasting positive results and lay the foundations for sustainable management of world heritage in Romania. The illustrative and graphic components of the whole work, but especially of chapter three, complement the analytical part and facilitate a better understanding of the themes and issues addressed.

The **final conclusions** review the main results of the research, starting from the fact that the Management Plan has become a mandatory part of the nomination dossier of any monument for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as for sites already inscribed. Thus, States Parties to the World Heritage Convention that have properties inscribed on this list must draw up and implement management plans for each site. At the end of the book, the author reinforces her earlier statement that a Management Plan is the result of a collective, participatory, transparent, and accountable approach. Thus, the management plan should become a working tool for both stakeholders and other people and institutions interested in the field of cultural heritage. The three case studies are a model to follow for all the components of the Roman Limes in Dacia. Thus, files and dossiers must be developed for each element that is part of the serial site, so that later their boundaries and protection areas can be delimited and become component elements of the general management plan of the Roman Limes of Dacia, which unfortunately is missing today. At the end of the book, the author outlines the basic components of a management plan, based on the UNESCO manual “Managing Cultural World Heritage” and on the experience of other countries with similar sites, which are part of the transnational serial site Roman Borders of Europe.

The text of the work is supported by a series of figures, which represent information that complements the issues discussed by the author in each chapter. The appendices at the end of the book are very useful for those working in the field and who may find them helpful in the process of preparing the site files, as A. Popa has done for the three case studies.

Finally, I believe that Andrea Popa’s work represents a scientific novelty, both from the perspective of the historical field and of cultural heritage studies. I recommend this work to all people involved in research, management, protection, and promotion of cultural heritage.

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