

INTRODUCTION

This was the **17th International Colloquium of Funerary Archaeology** organized in the past 25 years, one of them was in Bulgaria (Kazanluk, 1993) another in Serbia (Čačak, 2015), and the rest, in Romania: Tulcea-Brăila-Slobozia-Călărași (1995), Tulcea (1997, 2000 and 2008), Brăila and Tulcea (2003), Brăila (2010, 2016), Buzău (2004, 2009 and 2012), Sibiu (2005 and 2007), Bistrița (2008), Alun (2017), and now at Târgu Jiu (2018). These scientific events had participants from many parts of Europe and, sometimes, even from other continents.

So far, we have **published 16 volumes** of the funerary colloquia proceedings, all of them with excellent graphics and in languages used internationally, which had conferred a particular prestige to our scientific event.

To these we can add the three sessions organized during the Congresses of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP). Namely, the session named "*Tumuli Graves – Status Symbol of the Dead in Bronze and Iron Ages in Europe*", organized in **Florianopolis (Brazil)**, is already published in *Actes du XVI^e Congrès Mondial UISPP (Florianopolis, 4-10 Septembre 2011), Volume 2*. ISBN 9781407309897, 2012, by the prestigious British Archaeological Reports (BAR), while the presentations of the Session A16a - "*Aegean-Mediterranean imports and influences in the graves from continental Europe – Bronze & Iron Ages*", organised on the occasion of the XVII UISPP Congress, **Burgos (Spain)**, August 31st - September 7th 2014, have recently been published, together with the proceedings of Session A3c, by Archaeopress Archaeology, volume 9 (2016), and **Paris (2018)**.

These colloquia took place under the aegis of the 30th Commission of the UISPP - *Prehistoric and Protohistoric Mortuary Practices*, and of the Association for Studies in Funerary Archaeology – Romania (ASAF).

The activities of the 30th Commission can be found on the website: <http://uispp30commission.net4u.ro/index.php>

The participants at this colloquium are well-known professors and researchers from prestigious European universities and institutes, which provided a high level of analyses and debates, as well as good international visibility.

The programme of this colloquium included **24 presentations**, with **35 authors**, from **six countries**: Romania, Rep. of Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Italy.

Undoubtedly, the presentations and the debates on the topics in question offered new data and interesting interpretations on the phenomena of "*Border Guards of the Passes, from the Fortresses and the Graves. The Bronze and Iron Ages*".

I would like to thank Gorj County Council, Dr. Dumitru Hortopan, manager of Gorj County Museum "Alexandru Ștefulescu" Târgu Jiu and some of his colleagues for their financial and logistic efforts and for the good work necessary to organize this colloquium.

The volume of the colloquium, published by the financial support of the Gorj County Museum "Alexandru Ștefulescu" Tg. Jiu, includes **16 studies**; chronologically, from the Bronze Age to Second Iron Age, and geographically, from the Northern Italy to the Northern Black Sea.

Also, I would like to thank all of the participants for their scientific and financial efforts.

Prof. Dr. Valeriu Sîrbu

President

- 30th Commission: *Prehistoric and Protohistoric Mortuary Practices* of UISPP
- Association for Studies of Funerary Archaeology