

SCIENTIFIC PUBLIC FUND „RUDI-MAETONIUM. HISTORY OF THE THRACIAN CULTURE”

The ancient history of Moldavia was stormy and variable from the point of view of the historical events, which were taking place on this territory long time ago. The unique material and spiritual evidences of this rich historical past are found up to the present days in a great number within the whole actual area of the Republic of Moldavia.

The study of the historical cultural communities, related directly to the national history are especially singled out from the whole complex of the scientific-historical problems at the present stage. The question is of the Protothracians, the Early Thracians and the Geto-Dacians. The present conditions are of such kind that this task can be carried out only on the basis of the complex long-term programme. At the same time the similar programme should, if possible, be based on studying the group of the historico-archaeological sites which are of a significant importance not only for Moldavia, but also for the international scientific world. The microregional surveys in the concentration zones of the most perspective and representative sites, which were inhabited by various historical cultural entities, can serve as one of the forms in realizing this programme. One of these zones is the microregion of Rudi-Tatarauca Noua (the region of Dondușeni). The whole suite of ancient settlements and burial

grounds, whose scientific importance goes far beyond the borders of our republic, is situated here among the unique natural ecological landscape. The historico-chronological column of the archaeological sites, concentrated in the microregion, embraces a long period from the Neolithic epoch up to the Middle Ages. The influence of the anthropogenic factor, which did not cause significant after effects, ensured the excellent preservation of the numerous fortified towns, connected mostly with the activities of the ancient Thracians, within this territory. It is necessary to underline that one of them – the fortress of „La Șanțuri” is associated with the ancient Thracian town of Maetonium, which was mentioned in „Geography” by Claudius Ptolemy (1st-2nd c. A.D.)

It was for realizing the complex scientific programme, intended for long-term surveys that the scientific public fund „Rudi-Maetonium. The History of the Thracian culture” has been created. The fund is a non-governmental organization and is independent from the state budget and from any political parties and trends.

The main aims and tasks of the fund are as follows:

– comprehensive investigations of historico-archaeological complexes, concentrated within the microregion of Rudi-Tatarauca Noua, followed by determining the general functioning

problems of the ancient communities at different chronological stages;

– rescue works at historico-archaeological sites, which are subject to the destructive effects of the environment, including the human activities;

– creating some kind of museums at the main sites and in prospect establishing the museum complex „Rudi-Mactonium”;

– active popular-science popularization of the survey results in any available forms;

– publication activities (scientific and popular-science publication);

– international cooperation (joint archaeological expeditions and scientific-research designs and publications, organization of international conferences, symposiums etc.).

The fund is willing to cooperate in any form and will accept any kind of support, including a financial one (sponsorship and patronage are the main source of financing the fund).

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