

Abstract: The man 'created' before 1990 and trained through a 'national' or imported non-culture has no respect for the legacy of previous generations, because everything has to be transformed into 'tinkling money'. The Romanian state leased the 'Golden Quadrilateral', which is also *Țara Moșilor*, to a private company, 'Gabriel Resources', in order to exploit the gold in huge open-cast mines. Ancient customs, the development of specific crafts, mainly a civilization based on wood manufacturing, remarkable in its beauty, are all in danger of disappearing

Roșia Montană is not the most serious case of threat against cultural heritage; it is the most well known due to its value within *Țara Moșilor*, the involvement of the worldwide scientific bodies, civil society and scientists.

Political imperatives have stopped the process of enlisting Roșia Montană into UNESCO Tentative List advanced by the minister H. Kelemen in 2010. Nobody can believe the fact that the State is represented by people that support the interests of a private company and not the safeguarding of the national heritage, declared as such by laws in force!

Romanian state neglects on purpose the long term benefit from the inclusion of *Țara Moșilor* in UNESCO as a cultural landscape in evolution! The Romanian state does not consider the obligation to form in the local mentality the desire to strengthen its existence through the possibilities offered by the richness of the natural and cultural heritage.

Rezumat: Ca urmare a unui proces îndelungat, început după preluarea puterii de către comuniști și accentuat în anii de după 1989 a apărut acel om mult dorit care știe totul și pentru care nici o valoare nu reprezintă o barieră în goana după înavușire. „Cadrilaterul Aurului” a fost concesionat integral și la Roșia Montană s-a instituit o stare de asediu ca urmare a dezvoltării unui proiect de exploatare în carieră deschisă a aurului diseminat în roca a patru munți. Proiectul acceptat de autoritățile locale ca singura șansă de dezvoltare armeană să distrugă peisajul natural și cultural (Fig. 1)

Țara Moșilor, care se întinde în „Cadrilaterul Aurului” este o zonă cu valoare identitară pentru fiecare român, fiind prin cultura sa și prin contribuția Moșilor la lupta pentru dreptate și libertate un simbol național.

Sub presiunea unor reprezentanți ai statului se fac pregătirile pentru începerea exploatarea de la Roșia Montană. Ministerul Culturii și Patrimoniului Național a renunțat la intenția de a pune Roșia Montană pe Lista Tentativă de înscriere ca monument UNESCO a Roșiei Montane. Firma sponsorizează un grup independent de monitorizare a patrimoniului cultural de la Roșia Montană și afirmă că doar investiția în exploatarea totală a aurului de aici poate asigura protecția unei părți a acestui patrimoniu. Grupul independent se erijează în deținătorul soluției optime și instanța care poate aprecia „obiectiv” problema. Concluzia Grupului ca ar fi ridicolă înscrierea ca sit UNESCO trebuie să contracareze opinia specialiștilor, a Academiei Române, ICOMOS etc. care din 2002 s-au pronunțat pentru dezvoltarea durabilă a Roșiei Montane prin crearea unui proiect de punere în valoare a potențialului natural și cultural, pentru un turism cultural.

* “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest.

Tradițiile străvechi, dezvoltarea unor meșteșuguri caracteristice, mai cu seamă o civilizație a lemnului de o frumusețe remarcabilă sunt în primejdia de a dispărea prin strămutarea locuitorilor și crearea unor „noi așezări” care nu au nimic în comun cu cultura dezvoltată în aceste regiuni.

Pentru a prezerva peisajul cultural din *Țara Moșilor* pe termen lung, amenințat în aceeași măsură, dar fără zgomot, de aceiași investitori nu există decât o cale – declararea valorii mondiale a acestei regiuni defnitorii pentru spiritualitatea românească prin contribuția moșilor la făurirea unei culturi originale și la istoria poporului român.

Din 2003 s-a inițiat un proiect de a declara *Țara Moșilor* peisaj cultural evolutiv UNESCO (Fig. 2). *Țara Moșilor* este conform categoriilor defninite pentru moștenirea mondială « un paysage vivant qui conserve un rôle social actif dans la société contemporaine étroitement associé au mode de vie traditionnel et dans lequel le processus évolutif continue. En même temps, il montre des preuves manifestes de son évolution au cours des temps. »

Putem conchide că statul român ignoră dreptul comunității multietnice de la Roșia Montană de a se bucura de o dezvoltare în parametrii tradiționali, în cadrul natural și cultural pe care și l-a făurit de secole! Statul român neglijează voit profitul pe termen nelimitat ce se poate obține prin declararea *Țării Moșilor* ca peisaj cultural evolutiv UNESCO! (Fig. 3) Statul român nu ia în calcul obligația de a forma în mentalitatea locală dorința de a-și consolida existența prin posibilitățile oferite de bogăția patrimoniului natural și cultural și lasă comunitatea pradă presiunii psihologice și acțiunii de strămutare în folosul unor firme care vor pleca cu 80% din patrimoniul mineral al întregii regiuni, lăsându-ne nostalgia unei istorii și civilizații.

As a student, I heard a story about a fire in an aristocratic library, which was started by an illiterate mayor, appointed in 1946 by the Communists. I assumed that it was just an accident caused by his hatred for books because he had failed to graduate from primary school. Travelling throughout Romania I realized that in fact it was the general fate of all libraries; and exceptions were rare. At the same time, scholars and intellectuals from the inter-war period were imprisoned. The importance of professional training was replaced by loyalty to the Communist Party. In theory, people were sovereign. In practice, Communist Party language hid a policy that destroyed all of Romania's popular cultural assets. The culture that had been passed down from generation to generation was declared old-fashioned and was to be replaced by a 'superior' culture shaped in the 'light' of international or national Communism.

The culture and history of the people who had lived in this country for thousands of years [?] were destroyed and the new man was born.

The new man assumes that he knows EVERYTHING, even if he actually knows very little; he does not appreciate any values, because all values are reminiscence from an old world, which must be despised...

The man created before 1990 and trained through a 'national' or imported non-culture has no respect for what has been created before, because everything has to be transformed into 'tinkling money'.

Cultural specificity, national or local identity have no meaning and the crowd is willing to replace these at the first offer...

For 22 years we have been incapable of protecting what has not been destroyed by Barbarians, fires and absurd directives.

The law is on our side: 'The State guarantees and ensures the protection of historic monuments and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is the authority that acts in the State's name for the identification, research, inventory, classification, recording, preservation, including guarding and maintenance, consolidation and restoration, promotion of historic monuments and their social, economical and cultural integration in local people's lives.' (Law 259/2005, article 6). In spite of this, historic monuments are being demolished, the protected urban framework is being destroyed, as is the traditional village, with its beautiful culture are being replaced by imported 'European' models. The monuments that resisted popular democracy have been vandalized by the 'capitalists' from the period of transition (after 1989).

The inventory of specific values that characterize Romanian culture and its ancient heritage is just a matter to be checked. A real knowledge of the historic monuments and sites is based on what was researched at the beginning of the 20th century, with the means that existed then. There are few specialists left with the competence to bring the inventories of our archaeological and historic monuments up to date and they do not have the necessary funds. The State, through its legal representatives, ignores the fact that cultural heritage is a richness that defines a country, that once lost it is impossible to regain and only through its preservation and promotion can it ensure a sustainable development (Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, October 2005).

The cultural landscape which was created in the Apuseni Mountains during more than 2000 years of gold mining has historic, archaeological, architectural and ethnographical value. It is an extremely rich and beautiful compound relating to the evolution of mining techniques, relating to the metal-working and other crafts that were vital for survival at the time. Even more striking is the character of the people. The people of the Apuseni – the Moți have been honed by their lives in a harsh, remote, mountain environment, as well as a consequence of the oppression, the gold and the silver being always royal or imperial property. Through their strong character, the Moți became a symbol of the force that stood up for justice and freedom for the Romanians, from Transylvania and elsewhere. Even Communism did not annihilate the Moți communities and they have

preserved their way of life and their traditions to the present day. For any Transylvanian, Țara Moților (Land of the Moți) is a territory that defines his own identity.

The Romanian Constitution rules in Article 6 that minorities have a right to identity, yet the Romanians' identity is neither defined nor guaranteed. Maybe it was perceived as an axiom and should not have been included in the Law of laws. Yet, every day we witness aggressive acts against our identities and our national cultural heritage. In stark contrast to the law and common sense, this domain is governed by money and nothing prevents an individual or the State from satisfying its lust for gain.

The Romanian state leased the 'Golden Quadrilateral', which is also Țara Moților, to a private company, 'Gabriel Resources', in order to exploit ALL the gold that is scattered in the rocks, after it has been exploited mainly in vein for more than 2000 years. From 2000 the project of this barbarous exploitation of gold in the Apuseni Mountains has proceeded in stages. The Ministry of Culture was asked to authorise the open-cast mine in 2000. In 2001, the reformed Ministry and its officials promoted the open pit in four massifs that surround Roșia Montană. We emphasize that in the '70s, Ceaușescu's regime initiated the open mine exploitation in Cetate Mountain,¹ which was protected by law as natural monument, in fact being a historic monument, as it was the product of mining from prehistory until the Middle Ages. The fact that the Moți people protested was not taken into account, because we were living in a dictatorship, period of a 'rightful' society. The protest and the miners' unspoken opposition were expressed in the establishment of a mining museum and the opening of several hundreds meters of Roman galleries in Orlea Massif for tourists.

The Law no. 5/2000 which ratifies the National Spatial Planning Plan, 3rd Section Historic Monuments, Protected areas, stated that certain specific sites including Roșia Montană's Roman galleries, the entire village and several houses from the 18th and 19th centuries were protected areas of national importance. Nevertheless, in 2001 the Ministry of Culture initiated a 'national' research program for Roșia Montană, the Ancient *Alburnus Maior*, whose aim was to issue 'an archaeological discharge' for the benefit of the Investor,² who was to obtain a building permit of a huge open-cast mine which would mean the total destruction of the landscape: Cârnic Mountain

¹ Adrian Steclaci, *Roșia Montană, Masivul Cetate, In memoriam*, București, Ed. Heritage, 2011.

² Paul Damian and Mihaela Simion (National Museum of Romanian History) advance objectives within 'Alburnus Maior' National Research Program in the *Chronicle of Archaeological Research in Romania 2003*, p. 383: 'preventive archaeological excavation within Roșia Montană in order to obtain the archaeological discharge'.

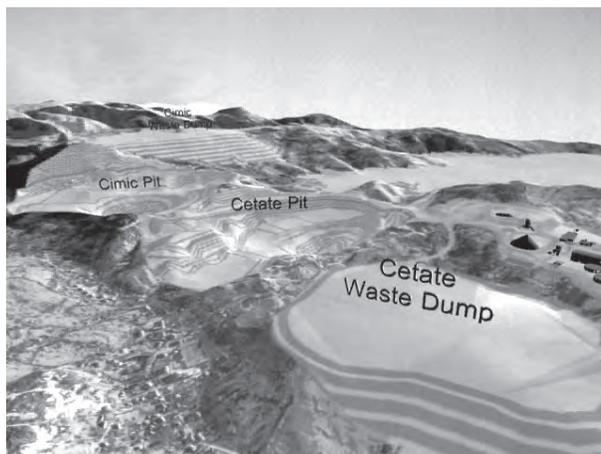


Fig.1. The privately held company will leave as legacy to Romanian people only the Cărnic and Cetate Pit, the 185 m tall dam above Abrud, the mine tailings and the lake with residues of cyanide and heavy metals. After RMGC project.

(73 ha in area), Cetate (69 ha, what is left), Orlea (45 ha) and Jig (18 ha), along with Cornea Valley where the decantation lake will be established to hold the 'tailings' (residue) from the process of using cyanide to extract ore from the rock (600 ha). (Fig. 1)

In the 'Archaeological Research 2000-2002' brochure, it was stated that 'all underground and surface research has been done in conformity with the priorities of the mining project'. The presidency does pressure to start the exploitation, to give the environmental permit for Gold Corporation's Project. In this case, the Orlea Massif, which is a protected monument and houses a Roman mine part of the museum created in 1970, will be demolished. But Orlea Massif like the Cărnic Massif,³ are protected by law, and under Law 85/2003 article 11,⁴ no mining project can take place.

Under the pressure from some State representatives to let the Company begin mining the remaining gold from Roşia Montană, and through the barrage of advertisements which the Company has planted in the media, one fact has been forgotten, namely that the cultural heritage which will be destroyed cannot be 'restored', even though the Company wants us to

³ It was again enlisted in the 'List of the monuments' in October 2010, following the definitive and irrevocable annulment of the archaeological discharge in conformity with Decision no. 4607 from December 9, 2008 of the High Court of Cassation and Justice.

⁴ Law 85/2003 article 11, (1) No mining activities on the lands where there are historic, cultural, religious monuments, archaeological sites of significant values, natural reserves, sanitary protection areas and areas of hydro-geographical protection of the water resources, as well as implementing the easement right for mining activities.

believe that it will 'restore the environment.'⁵

Some 'pragmatists' who consider that the exploitation from Roşia Montană - and whole area of the 'Golden Quadrilateral' - is essential for a modern economy have formed an 'independent' group that monitors cultural heritage in Roşia Montană. Whether appear in the newspapers or on television, this group supports the idea that 'the Roşia Montană mining project represents the only solid solution for the rehabilitation and restoration of the local heritage thanks to Roşia Montană Gold Corporation's financial investment'.⁶ This initiative came from the art historian, Răzvan Theodorescu, who signed the archaeological discharge permit (2004) when he was Minister of Culture. This group considers that the Alburnus Maior Research Program was excellent and could provide a model for the quality of research and for a modern School of Archaeology. We admit that the research was good, especially the investigations made underground, but the Program has a fundamental flaw; it was designed to remove legal protection from all the ancient patrimony, so that the entire area could be exploited without let or hindrance.

The quality of the research depended on the archaeologists' qualifications at the time. The archaeologists working for the Romanian Academy, universities and museums' condemn in an open letter, in 2002 the hasty and definitive evaluation of partial results of archaeological research thus ignoring the unitary character of a complex archaeological compound that is not continuous in space and covers a large area. The conclusion put forward to the decision-makers, once the first research results were evaluated, was that 'Alburnus

⁵ The arguments given by the economists from the Academy of Economic Studies and institutes working in the field on the catastrophic effects mining project would have in 15-20 years are not taken into account. The sad experience of those who exploited and processed the ore from Montana (USA), using cyanide, is neglected; along with other similar examples in Peru and Honduras etc. These examples show how the management of the post-mining effects on the environment and on local population's health is an expensive and long-term task that burdens the impoverished population.

⁶ The Independent Group set up to monitor cultural heritage in Roşia Montană: The protection of the heritage from Roşia Montană and its capitalization are possible only through an economic development of the area, through the mining project, July 11, 2011, <http://www.stiriaz.ro/ziare/articol/articol/grupul-independent-de-monitorizare-a-patrimoniului-cultural-de-la-roşia-montană-protejarea-patrimoniului-din-zona-si-punerea-sa-in-valoare-sunt-possible-doar-in-contextul-dezvoltării-economice-a-zonei-prin-proiectul-minier/sumar-articol/23008932/>.

⁷ Open letter addressed to the Ministry of Culture and to the President, Ion Iliescu in November 20, 2002, see the '22 Magazine', no 667, December 17-23, 2002.

Maior's ancient vestiges complex is unique within Romania' and it must be classified as an archaeological compound (Law 422/2001 article 3, paragraph b) among the archaeological areas of greatest national importance (Law 378 article 2, paragraph g, completing the appendix). *They made an appeal to include Roşia Montana's ancient remains in the protected heritage of Europe and of the world.*

We noticed that the excavated monuments were left unprotected, once they had been stripped to their foundations; this stripping and abandonment in an area of especially harsh weather conditions cannot be considered 'taking care of a monument'. This is due to the idea, widespread among specialists and clerks from the Ministry of Culture which dates back to the Communist years when Party directives could not be questioned, that those monuments which had been researched and registered had already been 'annihilated' and can be exploited by the Investor. This shows that the mentality of those that consider patrimony a means of personal promotion and a source of wealth has not changed.

The only result induced by the position that specialists took in the past 10 years was that the Company was constrained to show a minimal interest in the protection of the cultural heritage. At first, the project the Company advanced did not include anything concerning the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage. Then, the Company partially changed the project and made a big deal out of a chapter concerning 'the protection of the heritage' and the development of cultural tourism in the middle of working mines, close to mine tailings and cyanide and heavy metals lakes... They also presented 3D models of the galleries that are to be destroyed! The Investor has prepared a discourse that answers Romanian and international legislation concerning the protection of monuments, but this legislation is concerned only with *the heritage chosen by the Investor that lies beyond the perimeter where the surface mining exploitation is to be implemented.*

One can not accuse the Investor that it accepts to speak only about the heritage that is not in its way, as it is not a 'charity'! The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage must preserve it in order to offer the future generations the possibility of researching it further and employing it in a cultural and educational tourism. Țara Moşilor means for ROMANIANS more than gold! The State, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (sic!) are to be blamed as, by law, they have the duty to protect national cultural heritage, yet they look for means to favour 'economic development' causing harm to national cultural landscape. The Code of Ethics,⁸ article 2 adopted by the Assembly of archaeologists from Romania

⁸ http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/cod_deont_arh.htm

at Deva, in 2000 specify that „Any archaeologist has the duty to ensure the preservation of the archaeological heritage by any legal means.' I was present at several debates with Gold Corporation where the Company presented the printed reports of the excavations done by our colleagues that worked at Roşia Montană. The reports were done on good paper and illustrated qualitatively, but these were to replace a unique archaeological heritage that is to be destroyed. The specialist that accepts to sign a document that destroys a monument is all the more to be condemned, especially after he has researched the monument and asserted its value. Maybe he did it out of incompetence, out of fear of his superior or aiming to obtain material compensations by abandoning its professional ethics.

The President of the Department for History and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy, also member of the above mentioned 'independent' Group showed that the project of mining development of Roşia Montană can not be stopped on heritage reasons, as this can not stand as a barrier in the way of economic development. He declared at the end that he finds the proposal of enlisting Roşia Montană into the UNESCO Tentative List ridiculous⁹ It is a sure thing that Spanish people are way 'into ridiculous' by benefiting from the advantages of 43 UNESCO sites,¹⁰ among them being the gold mine from Las Medulas. Romans have 'dissolved' a mountain of slate rock (secondary deposit) in order to wash the gold out. The mountains were left only with the margins, as the entire central part was dug out several hundreds of meters in depth. After two millennia and without cyanide, this hollow bordered by the 'shell' of the former mountain holds chestnuts and gardens. The modest settlement of the Spanish miners is preserved with piety, even though it

⁹ Extract from the release the Independent Group issued on March 15, 2011: 'In the conclusion of the Sibiu Reunion, Academician Alexandru Vulpe, the president of the Archaeology and Historic Sciences Department, Romanian Academy, member of the Independent Group declared that the economic development of the area, besides implicit negative effects, present sure positive effects concerning the archaeological research, the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage. He emphasized the flawless nature of the archaeological research, saying that the publication of the results of the archaeological excavation is a model one, in comparison with national practice in the field...He emphasized the fact that the mining project can not be blocked on heritage grounds, as heritage can not stand as a barrier against economic development (sic!). Alexandru Vulpe ended his speech by declaring that he finds ridiculous the idea of including Roşia Montană in the UNESCO Tentative List.'

¹⁰ Spain enlisted other 23 sites on the Tentative List. It is clearly a sign of the 'unprofitability' of the sites that are already in the world heritage!

does not have the splendour of the architecture developed in Roşia Montană. Spanish villagers make and sell specific artefacts to tourists, even small bottles containing gold microns. The prosperity of the community is evident.

Obviously, the Independent Group, sponsored by Gold Corporation is that cluster of experts 'that must be heard and obeyed'. It is said the Romanian state is too poor to manage the heritage in Roşia Montană, especially the Roman mining one. Therefore, out of poorness and bad management of national resources we are faced with the proposal to accept to lose any trace of gold in the Apuseni Mountains and the archaeological, architectural and ethnographic heritage of Țara Moşilor that is symbolic for our dignity and identity.

The Company considers that it did its duty with the greatest 'responsibility' and following the 'in-depth' knowledge of the Roman galleries from Roşia Montană, the specialists hired by the Company concluded that these galleries are not unique: 'There is a number of sites throughout Romania that have similar characteristics, very little or not at all researched. Out of these, 14 (Ruda-Brad, Stănişia, Bucium –Vulcoi Corabia area, Băiţa – Fizeş, Certej – Săcărâmb area, Baia de Criş area, Haneş – Almaşul Mare area) have offered sure information on their archaeological potential, similar to the Ancient Alburnus Maior. These sites contain remnants of gold mines, habitat structures and associated mining infrastructure. This does not diminish the archaeological value Roşia Montană has, yet the one-sided approach and unjustified exaggeration only casts a shadow over the real scientific value of the site that resides precisely in the possibility of referring to the example offered by the research done here. In conclusion, the proposal of integration in the World Heritage UNESCO List is done by the State and authorized bodies, the Ministry of Culture and Cults, the Romanian National Institute of Historic Monuments and the National Committee for Historic Monuments in this case.¹¹ The cynicism of such a 'brainwave' Gabriel Resources is spreading can not be realized by those that have not been curious enough to do a click on the site of the Company¹² and thus to obtain information made available for potential investors: GIS / GEODE @ brgm Apuseni district ROMANIA ROM-00001 Barza, Bucium, Deva, Rosia Montana, Rosia Poieni, Sacarimb, Zlatna Long (E): 23.3 Lat (N): 46.3 Province: Apuseni district Status: Producing district Company: Gabriel Resources - Minvest SA (Romanian State) GEODE ID: ABCD 3 Comment: Apuseni (Mts) district: several ore deposits including Barza, Bucium, Deva, Roşia Montană, Roşia Poieni, Săcărîmb, Zlatna.

¹¹ Vol 72, June 2007. Answer to the appeal (registration no. 3030) filed at the Ministry of Environment on the chapters that deal with cultural heritage, p. 4.

¹² www.gabrielresources.com

For these mining projects from Țara Moşilor there was no request for a preventive research of the heritage, even though Gabriel Resources is aware that this needs to be done, yet the Ministry did not seize the danger that all those sites are in jeopardy to be destroyed.

The scientific authority of the Romanian Academy, scholars, ICOMOS and any person that is against the illegalities officials that are temporary invested with our sovereignty.

'It is possible that the arguments the academicians advance are correct in principle, yet they are excessively fundamentalist' says another 'independent'¹³ supported in his visits in Apuseni by RMGC.

Political imperatives have stopped the process of enlisting Roşia Montană into UNESCO Tentative List advanced by the minister H. Kelemen in 2010. Even though the President endorsed the Report on Cultural Heritage of the Presidential Committee in which there was a request for Roşia Montană's protection (pages 60-61) and even the setting up of a cultural landscape out of the Apuseni Mountains (page 122), he recently showed a vehement support for the exploitation project in Roşia Montană and 'other possible exploitations'.¹⁴ The issue of the cultural heritage is avoided in his speeches, but a local referendum is advanced on the idea that local (Rosia Montana's) inhabitants can decide on the matter that concerns 'only them'.¹⁵ The Romanian Constitution states

¹³ O'Hara, the Report (pdf) of the EU Committee on Culture, Science and Education, 2004, p. 4 : '16. Opposition to the RMGC project is substantial. It is not altogether easy to explain. It has been linked to profiteering on local property values. (in the French translation: 'à la spéculation sur les biens fonciers locaux'. This suggests to the reader that local population that opposes the forced relocation in favour of the mining project is doing this only as a 'speculation' on the value of property and there is no other reason.) It is very much fuelled by outside bodies (sic!).'

¹⁴ <http://www.cotidianul.ro/index.php?id=16274&art=40128&cHash=2c721431ef#> op Gabriel Resources, the company that manages the mining project in Roşia Montană filed requests for gold exploitation permits for the following areas: Băişoara, Baia Sprie, Băiţa, Certej, Bucium and Brad. 'We will not leave Romania. We will be here 25 years from now. On the contrary, we filed requests for obtaining the gold mining right in several areas in the Apuseni Mountains. Romania is very rich in mining resources, gold and other metals.' declared Richard Young, Financial Director of Gabriel Resources.

¹⁵ Interview with President Traian Băsescu on Roşia Montană "A solution for this blockage situation would be a local referendum. What do I have to do with it from Bucharest? Roşia Montană is a local exploitation. Similarly, why should one living in Suceava or Constanţa have an interest in Roşia Montană?" <http://www.tvr.ro/articol.php?id=110907&cc=7494>

at gold ores are inalienable national public property,¹⁶ a direct or concession type of exploitation affects the people, as sovereign.¹⁷ Besides the golden ore, which belongs to the people, there is also a cultural heritage that is neither the property of the local people, nor depending on local authorities' decisions.¹⁸ Those local authorities considering only one offer for development of their community, ie the one advanced by the investor interested in the quick gaining of the. We have to be convinced that our country is not 'an inheritance from our parents', but 'a loan from our children'.¹⁹

Roşia Montană is not the most serious case of threat against cultural heritage; it is the most well known due to its value within Țara Moţilor, the involvement of the worldwide scientific bodies, civil society and scientists.

The alternative to the open mining project involving cyanide would be sustainable development. In the 3rd millennium, we can not afford a destruction of remnants that survived centuries of history. The study of the mining vestiges is not a purely scientific aim, but a perfect means of education through cultural tourism. The research and management of the archaeological heritage will bring a beneficial development in the area, today an underprivileged one.

Archaeological research emphasized the existence of temples and necropolis, sound buildings, along with wooden buildings on rock foundation during Roman times. The nature of habitation is still little known, yet as epigraphy shows it seems the settlement was of a scattered type. Small or larger groups of miners settled near the mine. We presume that one could establish a horizontal stratigraphy because the settlement changed location in relation with the depletion of the exploitation vein.

We have to emphasize that Țara Moţilor is still characterized by a scattered type of settlement, in the so-called 'crânguri' (groves), small groups of farms established on own property.

Ancient customs, the development of specific crafts, mainly a civilization based on wood manufacturing that is remarkable in its beauty are all in danger of

disappearing due to the relocation of the villages and the setting up of 'new settlements' that have nothing in common with the culture that was developed in this region.

In order to preserve cultural landscape in Țara Moţilor on long term, as it is threatened as well as Roşia Montana, but without too much ado, by the same Investors, there is only one solution: the region must be acknowledged worldwide as a region that defines Romanian spirit, due to the contribution Moţi people have to the creation of an authentic culture and to the history of the Romanian people. The only solution for the specific civilization of the area that survived the millennia is to be declared a UNESCO cultural landscape in evolution. The Ministry of Culture, the only authority able to advance proposals for the UNESCO List has not endorsed the project from 2003, therefore, it could not be promoted. Nobody can believe the fact that the State is represented by people that support the interests of a private company and not the safeguarding of the national heritage, declared as such by laws in force! The interests of the Ministry officials' caste are the same no matter the political 'colour' of the Government.

Romanian state's representatives do not take into account the Nairobi Declaration, from November 26, 1976, adopted by UNESCO General Conference that states (II.2):

'Les ensembles historiques ou traditionnels et leur environnement devraient être considérés comme constituant un patrimoine universel irremplaçable. Leur sauvegarde et leur intégration dans la vie collective de notre époque devraient être un devoir pour les gouvernements et pour les citoyens des États sur le territoire desquels ils sont situés. Devraient en être responsables dans l'intérêt de tous les citoyens et de la communauté internationale, les autorités nationales, régionales ou locales, selon les conditions propres à chaque État membre en ce qui concerne la distribution des pouvoirs.'

The assertion that Romania has no right to make other proposals for the UNESCO List is contradicted even concerning the cultural landscape of the Land of Moţi as Stratégie globale pour une *Liste du patrimoine mondial* équilibrée, représentative et crédible, 1994 clearly states:

'Une étude globale, effectuée par l'ICOMOS entre 1987 et 1993, a révélé que l'Europe, les villes historiques et les monuments religieux, le christianisme, les époques historiques et l'architecture 'élitiste' (par opposition à l'architecture vernaculaire) étaient sur-représentés sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, alors que les cultures vivantes, et en particulier les 'cultures traditionnelles', étaient sous-représentées.'

¹⁶ Romanian Constitution, 2003, article 136, (3): 'Underground resources of public interest, aerial space, rivers that have a hydrographic potential that could be capitalized on, of national importance, beaches, territorial sea, natural resources of the economic area and continental plateau, as well as other goods established by organic law, are exclusively the subject of public property. (4) Public property goods are inalienable.'

¹⁷ *Ibidem* article 2.

¹⁸ Several mayors of the settlements near Roşia Montană drew up an open letter in which they expressed their opposition concerning the inclusion of Roşia Montană in the World Heritage List. It is the only case in the world!

¹⁹ King Mihai, Discourse in Parliament, October 25, 2011.

Țara Moților complies with the categories defined for worldwide heritage²⁰ ‘un paysage vivant qui conserve un rôle social actif dans la société contemporaine étroitement associé au mode de vie traditionnel et dans lequel le processus évolutif continue. En même temps, il montre des preuves manifestes de son évolution au cours des temps.’

We can conclude that the Romanian state ignores the right the multiethnic community in Roşia Montană has to enjoy a long term development in the traditional pattern within the natural and cultural framework established during centuries! Romanian state neglects on purpose the long term benefit from the inclusion of Țara Moților in UNESCO as a cultural landscape in evolution! The Romanian state does not consider the obligation to form in the local mentality the desire to strengthen its existence through the possibilities offered by the richness of the natural and cultural heritage. The Romanian state has abandoned the community to the psychological pressure and the relocation process in the benefit of a company that will walk away with 80% of the mineral resources of the whole region, leaving us with the nostalgia of a history and civilization.

Mass-media pressure involving letters written by ‘inhabitants’ from Roşia Montană that do not have the necessary means for living if Gold Corporation does not implement the project is untrustworthy from the start. Everywhere, throughout Romania the ‘Socialist’ industry was dissolved by ‘favourite investors’ and the workers and specialists found themselves out of job for years now. Țara Moților is defined as a cultural landscape through the blend between karst landscape and volcanic ones, along with an evolution of mining technique from prehistory until the 20th century. This is the most important criterion for the inclusion of Țara Moților into the Worldwide Cultural Landscape List. This authentic habitat is the result geographical morphology, landownership type and natural resources. It is characterized by scattered villages with specific architecture and quasi-urban settlements, developed within the former principalities (cnezate) and voivodeships. The increase in population through colonisation processes during the Roman Empire and afterwards, by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, generated an authentic multiethnic civilization. The authenticity, uniqueness and the beauty of the natural, immovable and spiritual landscape favour the possibility of setting up an extended area for sustainable development.-

By setting up Țara Moților as a cultural landscape (Fig. 2) of exceptional significance a lot of opportunities will arise, namely financial investments for an evaluation of the cultural and natural heritage from the Eastern part

of the Apuseni Mountains, Țara Moților, with an area of 3,724 km² with a buffer area of 1,700 km². (Fig. 3) At the same time, the research of the natural heritage protected as heritage of national importance could continue. This heritage includes: karst, volcanic monuments, flora and fauna. The multidisciplinary and comparative research of the development of life from pre-history in this area will have a strong impulse. The research on the mines, along with the gold workshops in the Dacian, Roman and Middle Ages periods can also be completed.

Another area of interest would be the study of the built heritage (Late Baroque and Vernacular architecture) with the aim of estimating the ways of preservation and using it just for the rehabilitation of the historic centres of the following towns: Abrud, Zlatna, Roşia Montană, Bucium, Brad, Criscior and Hălmaşiu. There is also a need to find solutions for financing all these projects with EU funds and structural funds.

There is also the need to do studies and projects for the reconstruction of the archaeological sites that have been discovered and the selection of the most specific aspects of the habitation compound in a gold mining area from prehistory until today. A database of the above can be done and then made available for European scientists.

A policy of spreading the scientific knowledge on the area is to be endorsed with the purpose of increasing individual and collective responsibility towards a cultural heritage that is unique in Europe.

All these stages can be implemented through the drawing up of a management project of the cultural landscape in evolution, in order to obtain its enlisting in the UNESCO List. Those that are specialized in setting up and managing national parks can draw up a complex project aiming to ensure a continuous development of the cultural landscape, in order to ensure a good management of the area and an answer to any challenge.

Through education, local population can be involved in the process of research, managing and transmitting to future generations their cultural landscape. The result would be a more responsible public in order to ensure the safeguarding of this natural and cultural treasure.

Scientific arguments are supporting all the actions meant to avoid an environmental disaster, and especially a disaster for the civilisation in Țara Moților that could be triggered by a blind thirst of gold. Țara Moților does not have gold in veins anymore, but it has the glow of a civilization created by those that have strived for over 2000 years to gold mining! We can not afford to lose Țara Moților!

²⁰ <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/paysageculturel>



Fig. 2. Țara Moților - cultural landscape in evolution.

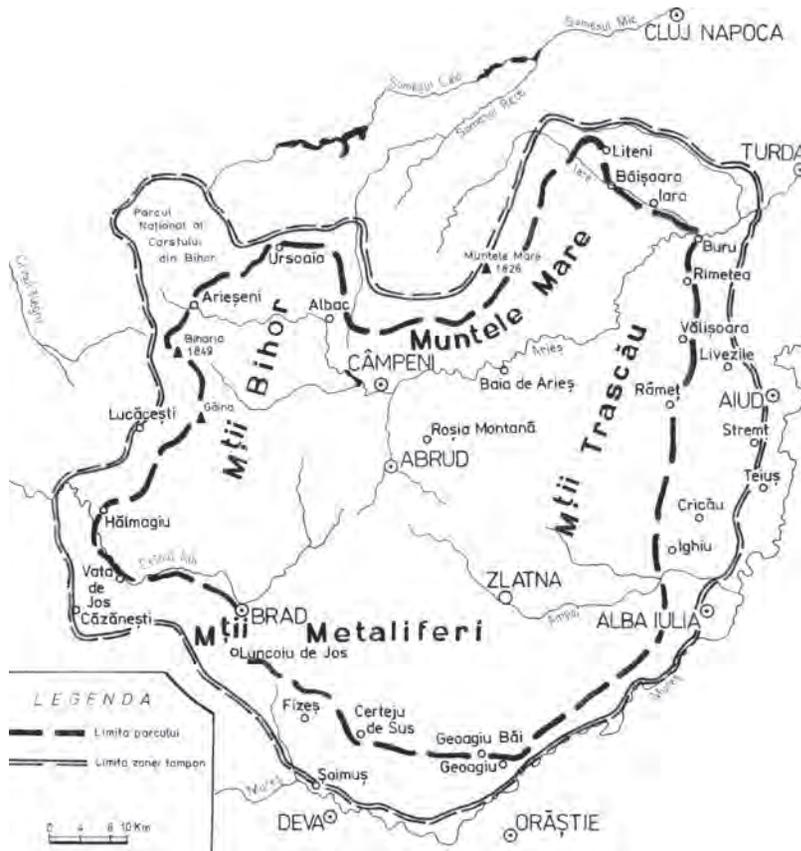


Fig. 3. The map (by dr. W. Schreiber) of the territory proposed for the 'Țara Moților-Cultural Landscape in Evolution'.