

# NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND A FEW CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE ECCLESIASTIC COMPLEX FROM STREI (HUNEDOARA COUNTY)

## SUMMARY

The Orthodox Church, "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" from Strei village (Hunedoara County) is one of the oldest monuments of architecture and of ecclesiastic art of Țara Hațegului. The monument, dated in 13<sup>th</sup> century has a mural assemblage belonging to the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Among time, a series of annexed buildings has been attached to the initial edifice (15<sup>th</sup> century) and a chapel of Reformatted rite (18<sup>th</sup> century). The ecclesiastic complex it is situated close to some Roman structures (*villa rustica*), as well as to a post - Roman settlement and to a feudal residence remnants.

In the spring of 2000, with the occasion of a restoration, the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization from Deva have made an archaeological rescue excavation, around the church. Four surfaces had been opened:  $S_1 = 3 \times 1,70$  m,  $S_2 = 8 \times 10,30$  m  $\times$  9,70 m,  $S_3 = 6 \times 1,50$  m,  $C_1 = 2 \times 1$  m. A number of 42 graves has been found, which are dated according with the graves-goods and with the stratigraphical observations, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The funerary inventory, extremely poor, consists in coins that are belonging to the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and jewellery (bronze and silver links, globular buttons with metallic pearls, etc). At the same time, a wall fondation was uncovered ( $Z_1$ ) together with a doorway threshold made from stone.

This building elements, unknown until now, have proved the existance, on the west and the north sides of the monument, of a structure datable in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Their destination is uncertain, but we can presume the existance of a defence system with precinct wall, or the existance of an orthodox monastery between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The new archaeological research from Strei has offered a series of useful information regarding the evolutions of this ecclesiastic complex.