As the 15th century ends, the battle for Europe begins! The heroes (and their legend) that held back the Ottoman East have died: Vlad Dracula the Impaler in 1476; Holy Stephan the Great in 1504; Skanderberg in 1468. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the European defeat at the Battle of Mohacs in 1526 opened the way for the Ottoman expansion into Europe. By 1529, Suleiman the Magnificent has conquered southeastern Europe, and the Ottoman troops were battering the walls of Vienna.

The aim of this project is to evaluate how major global political events physically impact local populations. For that purpose, we will analyze the human remains from four different cemeteries from central Transylvania, around the city of Odorheiu Secuiesc, dating from the 16-17th centuries, in relative geographic proximity to one another but different settled environment. The collection that we will study is housed at the “Haaz Rezso” Museum in Odorheiu Secuiesc, in the heart of Transylvania. This summer’s workshop is designed to conduct an exhaustive osteological survey as well as to select bones to be brought back for stable isotope analysis. Students will receive an intensive 3h lectures daily on theory and method in osteology prior to working on the bones.

Session dates:
- 1st session from June 2nd to June 29th, 2013
- 2nd session from July 14th to August 10th, 2013

Costs per session: US$1475
Includes:
- Registration fee $385
- Lodging
- Access to the study collection
- Museum registration
- Security clearance
- Teaching material, support and documentation
- Laboratory material (except Lab coats)
- Lectures: 30hrs/session

For information and application procedure: www.archaeotek.org
Or contact us at bioarchaeology@archaeotek.org
Workshop: Osteological and bioarchaeological analysis of Late Middle Ages frontier populations: Human physical impact of political changes, Transylvania, Romania

Period: Late Middle Ages: 15-17th century

Workshop period: Osteology Session 1: June 02 – June 29, 2013 (4 weeks)
Osteology Session 2: July 14 – August 10, 2013 (4 weeks)

Historical Background:

As the 15th century ends, the southeastern European frontier collapses in front of the Ottoman Turks. The heroes (and their legend) that held back the Eastern invaders have died: Vlad Dracula the Impaler, prince of Wallachia in 1476; Holy Stephan the Great, prince of Moldavia in 1504; Skanderberg (Iskender Bey), lord of Albania in 1468. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the united European defeat at the great Battle of Mohacs in 1526 opened the way for the Ottoman expansion into Europe. By 1529, Suleiman the Magnificent has conquered southeastern Europe, the Kingdom of Hungary collapsed and the Ottoman troops were battering the walls of Vienna. The Ottoman expansions was finally checked in 1683, when the arrival of King Jan III Sobieski of Poland’s heavy cavalry charge under the walls of besieged Vienna broke the Ottoman army and won a crucial victory.

Transylvania was never invaded by the Turkish armies. The Saxon fortresses and the Szekely armies held the Ottomans armies at bay successfully. With the collapse of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1526, its Transylvanian territories became a political battlefield between European and the Ottoman backed princes until the Principality of Transylvania was born as an autonomous political entity in 1570. In 1600, Michael the Brave, with the support of the Transylvanian Szekely armies, beat the Ottoman and their supporters and realized the first union of the three Romania principalities into one kingdom.

Archaeological Contexts:

Böögöz (RO: Mugeni) is among the largest and oldest villages along the Küküllő (RO: Târnava Mare). It sits in the wide basin, the Böögöz Basin found at the middle of the river’s central section, which due to its features is suitable for agriculture, and the surrounding hills for animal husbandry and orchards. It sits at a mere 11 kilometers from Udvarhely (RO: Odorheiu Secuiesc). Its first written account dates back to 1333. Its Catholic inhabitants convert to the Reformed faith following the Reformation.

Archeological excavations around the church in 2009 and later in 2012 have shown that the monument itself must have been erected some time during the 12th century and was significantly modified in the late 15th and early 16th century. The cemetery (223 excavated graves) surrounding the church was used up until the end of the 19th century, first by Catholics and then, starting with the 16th century by members of the Reformed Church.
Kányád (RO: Ulieș) is one of the villages found in the small valleys between the hills stretching along the Kükülő river. The village was established in a small depression. The first written reference to it dates back to 1333, but the archeological excavations done at its church suggest that its first church was built some time during the 12th century. Its inhabitants deal mostly with animal husbandry (cattle and sheep) and agriculture.

The settlement’s first church, built during the course of the 12th century and suffered numerous modifications, was finally demolished in 1791 and rebuilt in the center of the present day village. The archeological excavations of 2006-2007 yielded 61 graves.

Máréfalva (RO: Satu Mare) lies in the valley of Fenyéd creek, at the foot of the Cekend plateau, being a typical mountain foot village. Its name is first mentioned in 1566, but according to the evidence uncovered by archeological excavations done at its church, its first church was built during the Romanesque period (13th century). Its inhabitants constantly remained with the Catholic faith. The village’s surrounding area is highly unfavorable for agriculture and so the inhabitant’s main activities are animal husbandry and logging.

The archeological excavations were conducted in 2007-2008, in the medieval church’s sanctuary area and yielded 32 graves.

Telekfalva (RO: Teleac): The first written source dates its foundation back to 1566. However, according to archeological evidence, it seemed to have occurred much earlier, probably in the 13th century. The village is crossed by two creeks, Nyír and Bedő, which flow from the area around Nyír and respectively Telek and Szeged. It sits in a small closed valley surrounded. Today, its inhabitants live off livestock (cattle and sheep), agriculture (corn and cereals) and fruit cultivation (plums and apples), and following the Reformation, they chose to switch from Catholicism to the Reformed faith.

In Telekfalva (RO: Teleac) we do not know of any medieval church. Its Reformed church was during the period of the Principality, sometime after 1613. The entire interior of the church revealed 69 graves containing mostly remains of children. One of the skeletons, a woman, had her hand severed at the wrist. The excavated segment of the cemetery was used only for a few decades, as shown by the coins sometimes found in these graves.

Workshop description:

The aim of this project is to evaluate how major political events physically impact local populations. For that purpose, we will analyze the human remains from four different cemeteries from central Transylvania (Romania), dating from the 16-17th centuries. The four communities that were chosen for this purpose are in relative geographic proximity to one another but vary in their settled environment from low valley flood plain to hill top occupation.

The research itself has three distinct stages. The first one will address the four communities individually in order to assess the internal specific characteristics of each population. The second stage will evaluate the degree to which these discrete populations are integrated into a larger Transylvanian-Szekely population. And finally, we will evaluate how the political changes that impacted Transylvania during the 16-17th centuries have physically affected these populations, and
to what degree and why there were differential changes within and between the four discrete populations during those events.

Both the osteology and the bioarchaeology workshops will address these research questions and train the students to conduct extensive osteological surveys. The goal is to achieve a better understanding of these populations and the changes that affected them by examining who they were, how they lived, and their adaptive strategies to outside stresses.

The collection that we will study is housed at the “Haaz Rezso” Museum in Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County, in the heart of Transylvania. This summer’s workshop is designed to implement an exhaustive osteological survey as well as to select bones to be brought back for stable isotope analysis. Students will receive daily an intensive 2h lecture on theory and method in osteology prior to working on the bones. They will be taught how to clean and reconstruct bones, determine age, sex, stature, identify pathologies, trauma and take standard measurements. As well, they will be introduced to various osteological conservation problems aiming at properly evaluate bone quality for further analysis. This survey of bioarchaeological theory and method, coupled with hands on data gathering, is aimed at providing the students the analytical tools needed for the interpretation of the data they collect.

Workshop Sessions:

**Osteology Session 1: June 2 - June 29, 2013** - Although a basic knowledge of human anatomy and morphology is required, this laboratory workshop session is intended for both inexperienced and advanced students. The workshop comprises daily intensive lectures on human anatomy (including determination of sex, age, stature and ancestry), biomechanics and pathology, group discussions, laboratory work, bone restoration and analysis, leading to individual and group research projects and presentations. Daily mandatory readings will accompany the specifics each lab day.

Students that wish to expand their skills and experience can register for a 2 week (June 30 - July 13) or 5 week (June 30 - August 3) period to our funerary archaeology excavation immediately following this osteology session.

**Osteology Session 2: July 14 - August 10, 2013** - This laboratory workshop session by itself is intended for more experienced students. The workshop will address more advanced issues on human anatomy, focusing on biomechanics and pathology, the format still includes group discussions, laboratory work, bone restoration and analysis, leading to individual and group research projects and presentations. Daily mandatory readings will accompany the specifics each lab day.

Inexperienced students interested in this session should register to the bioarchaeology workshop which offers a two week hands on funerary medieval excavation is included prior to the beginning of second osteology session. During these two weeks, students will excavate a 15-17th century cemetery for 6-7 hours/day followed by daily intensive lectures on human anatomy and morphology. As a result, this bioarchaeology workshop session provides an invaluable experience to both inexperienced and advanced students, and provides beginning level participants with the necessary background for the second osteology session.

Osteology and Bioarchaeology Section
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Project Objectives:

**Paleodemography**
1. Creating a comparative base line for late medieval populations in order to evaluate changes through time and adaptive responses to socio-political and economic historical events.

2. Establishing the skeletal biology of individuals and populations from medieval Transylvania:

   **Estimation of:**
   - a. Sex
   - b. Age
   - c. Stature
   - d. Ancestry

   **Identification of discrete and idiosyncratic traits:**
   - a. Dental nonmetric variation
   - b. Cranial nonmetric variation
   - c. Postcranial nonmetric variation

3. Establishing the skeletal health of individuals and populations from medieval Transylvania:

   **Paleopathology**
   - a. Congenital disease
   - b. Dental disease
   - c. Joint disease
   - d. Infectious disease
   - e. Metabolic and endocrine disease
   - f. Neoplastic disease
   - g. Trauma

   **Paleonutrition**
   - a. Isotopic reconstruction of diet
   - b. Malnutrition related disease
   - c. Nutritional deficiency related bone alterations

4. Identification of post-mortem alterations on bones
   - a. Identification of funeral practices: post-mortem treatment of bodies
   - b. Identification of burial practices: primary, secondary and tertiary burials
   - c. Identification of animal and/or vegetal alterations

5. Evaluation of conservation state and bone quality for analysis

**Research team:**

1. Project Coordinator: Prof. Andre Gonciar (Director, Archeological Techniques and Research Center, ArchaeoTek – Canada)

2. Research team: Dr. Zsolt Nyaradi (Expert Archaeologist – Haaz Rezso Museum of History and Ethnography, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Harghita County, Central Transylvania, Romania)
Bibliography: